

Legacy, page 14  
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Cardiac  
Great escape

Thursday March 28 1996

Albania D 8.50	Hong Kong HK\$ 25	Oman OR 1.00
Andorra FF 10	Hungary H 200	Pakistan PK 100
Austria AS 26	Iceland IK 105	Poland Z 5.70
Bahrain BD 0.35	India IN 55	Portugal E 200
Belgium BF 90	Israel IS 8.40	Qatar QR 10.00
Bulgaria L 170	Japan J 100	Romania US 2.00
Canada C 1.00	Korea K 100	Saudi Arabia R 10
Czechia CZ 1.00	Latvia LV 1.00	Slovakia SK 55
Denmark DK 16	Lithuania LT 2000	Slovenia SL 200
Dubai D 8.50	Malta M 0.45	Spain P 225
Egypt E 10	Mexico M 20	Sweden S 10
Finland FM 11	Netherlands G 4.00	Switzerland SF 3
France FF 10	Norway NK 15	Thailand B 50
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# The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR  
46,512

Labour's multi millionaire comeback kid

## Jags to riches

G2 with European weather

Matthew Engel on the shambles in English cricket

## Testing times

Inside Story G2 page 4

OnLine

## The risks of everyday life

G2 pages 10/13

Unease as unions sidelined on pre-election manifesto • NEC rules against candidate

# Blair plans policy ballot

Patrick Wintour and Larry Elliott

**T**ONY BLAIR cut the unions out of a key stage of policy-making for the first time yesterday, when he announced he would ballot the party's 350,000 members to endorse a pre-election manifesto.

The method could become a model for consultation for Mr Blair in government, but is seen by the left as a further marginalisation of the trade union voice.

The manifesto is to be drawn up this summer, with a ballot likely around Christmas. It will cover the economy, the welfare state, the constitution and Europe, but will not include tax and spending pledges.

The plan outlined by Mr Blair followed a bruising discussion on the party's National Executive Committee yesterday. It is designed to bind the rank and file into his vision of New Labour, distil its election pledges to reduce exposure to Conservative distortion and inject the sense of momentum around the party in the crucial months leading to the election.

Mr Blair said: "For the first time a political party will be entering a general election with its programme for government voted upon by its party members. It will nail for ever any doubt that we are anything other than New Labour."

NEC members, not just on the left, said the ballot plan was criticised by the clear majority of the speakers at yesterday's meeting, including some key union voices. Some warned a move to plebi-

scitary democracy would damage the expected pre-election mood of unity at party conference. Others claimed a low turnout in the ballot might allow the Tories to argue that Mr Blair is leading a reluctant party.

Two NEC sources claimed resistance had been so intense that they were left with the impression that Mr Blair would simply invite the membership to pledge themselves to support the programme, rather than hold a ballot.

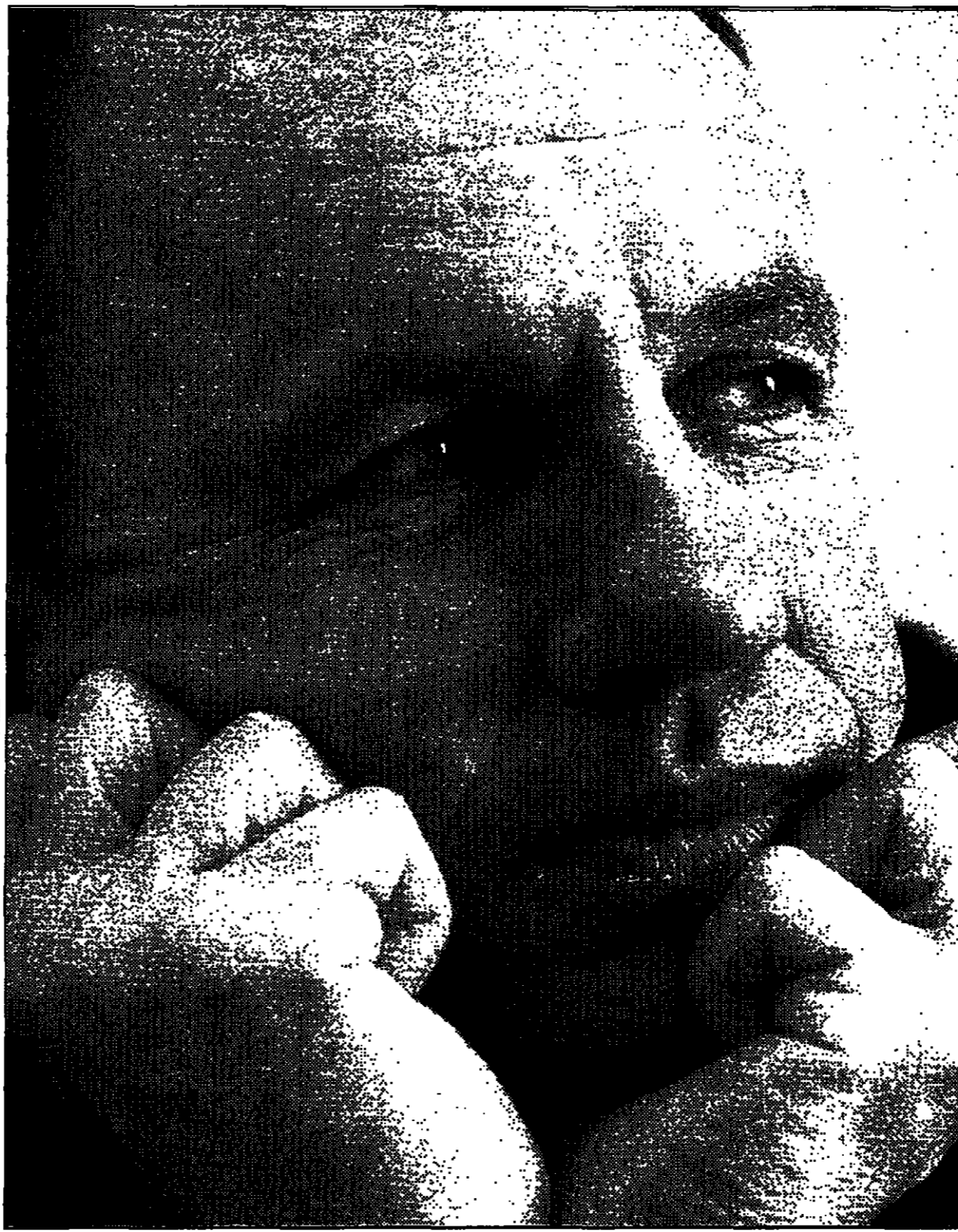
However, Labour officials said the proposals were passed 22 to 2. The document states clearly the pre-manifesto programme "will be put to a full ballot of all individual members to provide a firm pledge... to support and deliver Labour's programme. There must be no doubt whatever at the end of this process that the party and its constituent parts accept and agree this programme."

Both John Prescott, the deputy leader, and Robin Cook, the policy supremo, endorsed the plan as a chance to consult more widely.

Mr Blair described the document, Road to the Manifesto, as his contract with Britain, adding that the innovative process "is high-risk, high gain".

The manifesto will be published in June, put to the party conference, including the unions, without the possibility of amendment in October, and then to ballot around Christmas.

For the left Diane Abbott, who voted against the plan along with Dennis Skinner, said: "I am very concerned at drawing up a manifesto that goes to conference which cannot be amended, but offered only on a take-it-or-leave-it basis. I can only assume the



Former anti-apartheid activist John Lloyd (above) is not fit to be Labour's parliamentary candidate in Exeter, the

NEC said yesterday in a ruling which could lead to a rift with the local party. Mr Lloyd gave evidence to South

African police against another activist hanged in 1964. Report, page 3

idea of a ballot is to undermine the principle of conference sovereignty. Most NEC members, judging by the voices at yesterday's meeting, are uncomfortable with the idea of plebiscitary democracy.

Disunity within Labour over Europe will be exposed today, when 50 MPs from right and left of the party join forces to demand that Labour

immediately rule out joining a single currency.

In a show of strength aimed at underlining their leverage in a future Blair administration, Labour's Eurosceptics challenge the leadership to drop its "wait-and-see" approach to monetary union and open up the debate.

The move has been timed to coincide with the EU summit starting in Turin tomorrow

and indicates that, with almost a fifth of the parliamentary party signing up, Mr Blair potentially faces as big a problem over Europe as Mr Major.

Labour has tried to play down the arguments over monetary union, portraying them as a problem for the Conservatives. But Alan Simpson, chair of the leftwing Campaign Group, said: "The

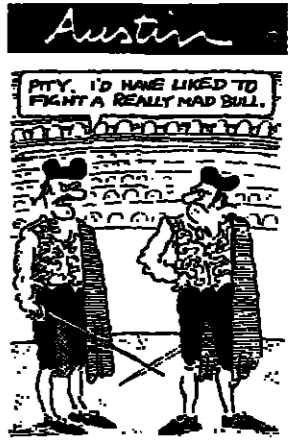
idea that Labour should remain silent on where it stands is not a credible position."

Austin Mitchell, from the other wing of the party, said: "It is necessary for us to say we are not going into monetary union. We should say we are not going into this monstrosity."

Leader comment, page 8

# Beef crisis threatens EU summit

Stephen Bates in Brussels and Michael White



**T**HE Government last night grudgingly welcomed the European Commission's offer of financial compensation to ease the cost of slaughtering BSE-tainted cattle, which could cost nearly £3 billion over the next five years.

But ministers and officials on both sides of the Channel were far from confident that a deal on the scale of the likely cull could be struck before the EU inter-governmental conference starts tomorrow in Turin. The meeting could be badly damaged by a symbolic test of European solidarity over mad cow disease.

With the two sides haggling over the legal basis for compensatory payments, the Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, last night revealed that slaughtering up to 15,000 30-month-old cows a week would cost £2.8 billion over five years.

The European Commission yesterday unanimously endorsed its worldwide ban on British beef and by-products, but promised to review the move within six weeks. The move came as the Dutch government announced it had ordered the destruction of 64,000 British cattle in the Netherlands and was advising consumers not to eat British beef.

Both Britain's European commissioners, Neil Kinnock and Sir Leon Brittan, voted for the ban, claiming they had between them won significant concessions, particularly over the six-week review. Sir Leon drafted the compensatory clause.

But the concession did not placate Downing Street, where officials called the ban "disappointing and disproportionate". They pledged to reverse it even as they fought for a compensation package.

Franz Fischer, the Austrian agriculture commissioner, told the European Parliament that the commission would expect enforcement of the ban to be rigorous. "There

are no blank cheques, nor should the impression be given that we are just waiting to pay out."

John Major said: "We do not think there is a public health problem with British beef. We have said so and the scientists have said so. What has happened is collective hysteria, partly media, partly Opposition, partly European."

"What we need to do to restore public confidence is to have the European ban lifted so that world export markets are open and produce a package that will reassure people."

Mr Fischer denied trying to punish anyone. He told MEPs: "The ban is quite clearly a provisional measure which we hope will be lifted as soon as possible once the necessary measures have been taken by Egypt and China."

The commission's panel of veterinary experts from all 15 states will convene again in six weeks' time and may visit Britain to review the measures and recommend further steps.

The ban is affecting other EU states, with the imposition of total bans on all European meat by Egypt and China.

Spoils of beef war, page 4; Letters, page 8

# Plaudits for Dearing revolution

Donald MacLeod and John Carvel

**T**HE most fundamental shake-up of education and training since the war was launched yesterday when the Government, with all-party support, embraced sweeping recommendations for change for the 16-19 age group.

From next year young people will be able to follow broader sixth form courses, mixing A levels with vocational subjects, while 14-year-olds disaffected with school will have the chance to take practical courses in the workplace or at further education colleges. All students will have to learn communication and numeracy skills in a package which brings England and Wales more closely in tune with Scotland and the rest of Europe.

National framework for all qualifications: academic, applied, vocational.

- 14-year-olds able to take applied and vocational courses at college or workplace training.
- Keep A levels alongside new broad Baccalaureate-type National Diploma.
- Scrap AS levels in favour of exam at 17 covering first half of A level course.
- Simpler assessment/more rigorous testing of GNVQs, renamed "Applied A levels".
- Relaunch Youth Training, improve careers guidance.

Sir Ron Dearing

The present jumble of 16,000 qualifications will be streamlined into three distinct pathways — academic, "applied" subjects at school or college, and workplace vocational courses.

The reforms, proposed by the Government's senior education adviser, Sir Ron Dearing, and endorsed by Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, will go ahead whatever the general election result thanks to Sir Ron's careful groundwork in building a consensus from the right wing of the Con-

servative Party to the teaching unions. Labour's education spokesman, David Blunkett, attempted to steal some of Mrs Shephard's thunder by adopting many of the proposals as his own last week.

The report from Sir Ron, chairman of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, brought a confetti of congratulatory statements from business, unions and all sections of the educational establishment, which had been primed for the package during months of careful consultation.

In the Commons there was scarcely any echo of the criticism from traditionalist Conservative MPs which greeted previous attempts during Lady Thatcher's premiership to meddle with the "gold standard" to page 3, column 6

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# Eurostar makes hash of poster campaign pushing Amsterdam

Richard Alcock

**W**HEN Eurostar decided to advertise the speedy access of its trains to the Amsterdam high life, it failed to take account of protests from the Dutch tourist authorities.

Now a poster pointing to the delights of the city's drug scene has been withdrawn from London Underground stations because, according to Eurostar, people had "misconstrued" the image of Van Gogh smoking a joint.

The advert is one of a tongue-in-cheek series on European "Secret Cities". Lille is associated with De Gaulle; Brussels is represented by its famous urinating cherub.

The Amsterdam advertisement showed the artist with a well-packed joint

and a cannabis leaf prominently displayed.

A Eurostar spokesman said the advertisement had been "misconstrued" by various sources" who complained about its encouragement of drug tourism, which Amsterdam is trying to curb. "Because people interpreted it that way, we thought it best to withdraw it," he said. "The initial idea was harmless."

But the advert would be hard to construe as anything other than an invitation to go and smoke hashish, said a spokeswoman for the Netherlands Tourism Board whose director, Theo Lingmont, had complained to Eurostar.

"The implication was very clear and unmissable. The textline also hinted strongly at the drugs," she said. "The city has so much more to offer."

## Inside

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WINNER SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT OSCAR - JOHN LASSETER

"THIS IS THE MOST FUN IN TOWN"

"IT'S UNSENTIMENTAL POLITICALLY INCORRECT & BREATHTAKINGLY REALISED"

**Toy Story**

**NOW SHOWING AT CINEMAS EVERYWHERE**



Sketch

Put the Cabinet out of its misery



Simon Hoggart

A CULL of the Cabinet is an attractive idea, and would do much to restore confidence in British politicians after the recent panic. It should be carried out humbly: a last meal of pâté de foie gras, beef Wellington, and a decent claret. Then the stun gun in the neck and a deflagration in the presence of European officials. British politics would be declared safe for public consumption. It's the cows I feel sorry for. Luckily they don't yet have their own cable TV channel. "Good evening. Here is the news. We're all going to die, die I tell you! Oh, this just in, apparently we're not going to die... or at least not all of us. Stay with us for Moomsight." In the meantime, it's worth doing an early check of who's done well and who's failed in the beef imbroglio. The chief loser is probably Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary. Mr Dorrell is intelligent and honest — the two attributes least admired in Conservative ministers. Looked at from the point of view of a Tory backbencher, he made the huge initial mistake of insisting in Cabinet that we be told there might be a link between BSE and CJD. The public was supposed to react to this candour by saying: "Gosh, that's reassuring. Minister — clearly the risk is minuscule. But thanks for telling us anyway!" Instead they stopped buying beef. Mr Dorrell blamed the public. "It isn't the cows who are mad, it's the people," he said. So he has made the two most fundamental mistakes of modern politics: attacking the voters, and being unlucky. He was not be quickly forgiven. Douglas Hogg has also had a terrible week. ("Hog" is northern dialect for "young sheep", so his surname means "Shepherd", as does mine. Another variation is "Howard", so my

family and I have the humiliation of sharing a name with three members of this Cabinet.) Mr Hogg scared the landed farmers on the Tory benches by seeming to demand a mass cull of cattle. Then Ken Clarke got back from Africa. (Did you see the pictures of him in Soweto, shaking hands with a man in a giant condom and sunglasses? Advice to adolescents: practise safe sex, and never wear a six-foot condom with eye holes in the end.) Mr Hogg was overruled by the Chancellor. So the crisis worsened, and it turned out that he might have been right after all. But will he be forgiven for being correct? Of course not. John Major made himself look even sillier by blaming the Opposition on Tuesday. I sensed a change in the public mood when last month he blamed Robin Cook for the Scott Report. He is losing the one thing the public admired: his honesty. He was always dreary and uninspirational. Now he seems like just another political sleazeball. Gavin Strang, the Labour agriculture spokesman, did himself some good by being calm. Mr Strang looks as if he knows one end of a cow from the other, whereas Harriet Harman may not. She has been trying to win back support for the Shadow Cabinet elections this summer. Her attacks on the Government infuriated Tory MPs, who appeared to imagine that it is the Opposition's job to excuse the Government for all its errors, in the interests of national unity. Among the winners will, as ever, be the farmers. They will demand compensation for having stuffed their livestock with rancid and possibly poisonous detritus and then sold it to us. No other industry would get this treatment. Would we compensate Mars if they sold us poisonous chocolate? Or Ford, if the brakes failed on their cars? The time may come when we ask whether we really need mass agriculture. Almost all food can be produced more cheaply elsewhere. We could convert the prairies of England back to meadows and hedgerows, with a few country parks and golf courses. We'd save a fortune and the country would be much better off.

Israeli judge rejects insanity plea as convicted zealot Yigal Amir warns court of 'rivers of blood'

Rabin's killer jailed for life

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

YIGAL AMIR yelled, "The state of Israel is a monstrosity," as he was bundled out of court yesterday to begin a life sentence for killing the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin. To most Israelis, Amir himself is a monster. "He is unworthy of anything except pity in that he has lost all semblance of humanity," the presiding judge, Edmond Levy, said. Amir showed little emotion as he was convicted. A slight figure in a white sweater, surrounded by guards, he even permitted himself one of the enigmatic grins that have infuriated television audiences during the five-month trial. "Everything I did, I did for the people of Israel, for the Torah of Israel, for the land of Israel," he said calmly. For the religious student, aged 25, the life sentence will almost certainly mean just that. Most murderers in Israel are released after serving at least 14 years, though some prisoners — notably Palestinian political killers — are imprisoned indefinitely. In Amir's case, President Ezer Weizman has already indicated that he will reject any move to reduce the sentence. The court made its intention clear by sentencing Amir to an additional six years for wounding one of his bodyguards. Amir made no attempt to deny that he fired the fatal shots that killed Mr Rabin as he left a peace rally in Tel Aviv on November 4. A religious zealot, Amir said his action was guided by God, and by Jewish law. He claimed he had aimed to paralyse rather than kill the prime minister, because of the government's peace accords with the Palestinians. It was ungrateful, he said, for a Jew to give up part of the God-given land of Israel. It was partly Amir's cool admission of guilt and utter lack of remorse that led the Tel Aviv court to deliver its damning verdict yesterday. Judge Levy said Amir was in a rational fashion, and in accordance with his world view, mentally unbalanced. Although psychiatric examination had shown "narcissistic



Yigal Amir, flanked by court guards. After yesterday's verdict, he said: 'I committed this act and I am willing to pay the price'

and schizoid elements" in his personality, his intellectual capacity was very high. He devised and planned the action with which he is charged over a long period of time. The action was carried out in a rational fashion, and in accordance with his world view, Judge Levy said. The judge concluded: "With premeditation and incredible

composure, he decided that killing the late prime minister is the last way in which to stop the peace process which was not to his liking, and he followed this path to the end. As his guilt was pronounced, Amir briefly buried his head in his hands. Then, asked if he had anything to say, said: "All the power is in the hands of the government.

For three years they used it cynically. The little man could only demonstrate and raise his voice, but even that was barred in recent years. "For this reason, I had no choice but to commit this act even though it ran against the grain of my own personality, because the damage to the people of Israel is irreversible and we already see the result

on the street. Everything they have done in the last three years will lead to rivers of blood. "I committed this act and I am willing to pay the price, but those who caused thousands of people to die will never pay the price. They are protected by the system." He added: "This was a show trial."

Amir had insisted he was applying the Halachic (Jewish religious) principle of *rodef*, which broadly permits killing in self-defence or in defence of another. The argument was dismissed yesterday as "twisted and sickening." One of Amir's lawyers, Jonathan Ray Goldberg, indicated there would be an appeal to the supreme court.

First night

Hymn to romantic agony falls flat

Michael Billington

he is a thoughtful narcissist gradually opened up to true feeling. What we actually see is a happy, sexually fulfilled man slowly being torn apart. The show is a hymn to what Mario Praz called "the romantic agony". While that may be perfectly valid, it does not exactly have a tonic effect on Sondheim's music and lyrics. His score is surprisingly monotonous. Even his lyrics, except in the case of the mockingly ironic army officers, lack their wonted pungency and wit. The best reason for seeing the show is Maria Friedman's Fosca. It is not just that, with her swept-back hair and ghostly pallor, she manages to persuade us she is plain. What she captures, particularly in the first half, is the demonic nature of Fosca's love: her hands ominously flutter in the air and when she offers Giorgio a flower it is as if she is presenting a poisoned chalice. Friedman not only sings superbly but gives a precise display of controlled neurosis. Michael Ball as the entranced hero deftly suggests an innocent abroad in a world of feverish passion and Helen Hobson is sensually powerful as his epistolary mistress. Sams' production is also beautifully designed by Paul Farnsworth with atmosphere evoked through semi-transparent burnished-copper screens. But, although the show has a kind of agonised integrity, it lacks the authentic heartache, yearning and capacity to induce tears that permeates just about every other Sondheim musical. This review appeared in some editions of yesterday's paper.

Drink-driving Tory MP fined over road accident

Angella Johnson

FORMER Tory minister Sir Nicholas Scott was yesterday banned from driving for a year and ordered to pay £900 for motoring offences, following an accident in which a three-year-old boy was trapped between two cars. Sir Nicholas, aged 62, was fined £250 after being found guilty of failing to stop after his Volvo shunted a parked car in Chelsea, it was reported last June. He was fined £200 with £450 costs, and banned from driving for a year, after he admitted drink-driving during the incident. The former social security minister, who was narrowly selected to stand for the safe seat of Kensington and Chelsea last November, left Horseferry Road magistrates' court, in central London, without comment. Magistrate Roger Davies told him: "You had no idea what damage might have been caused to the car in front of you or what possible harm could have been caused to the child."



Sir Nicholas: Failed to stop after shunt trapped boy, 3

He claimed he was not used to the car and it had pulled forward, but he did not think anything more than a minor bump had occurred. However, the vehicle had pushed a Volvo estate in front, trapping Thibault Perreard, who was pinned between it and a Jaguar. Yves Perreard, a Swiss banker, said he tried to free his son as passers-by shouted and tried to make Sir Nicholas reverse his car to release the child. He said he was later unable to fix the driver. The child was taken to hospital where a doctor found he had some reddening on his lower back but was otherwise unhurt. His pushchair had been crushed and Mr Perreard was slightly injured. Police interviewed Sir Nicholas two hours after the accident, at the nearby home of his doctor. They had received a telephone call to say Sir Nicholas was there waiting to be interviewed. PC Philip Logan said the MP told him he had drunk a couple of glasses of wine and was later given a glass of whisky by his doctor friend. Sir Nicholas admitted driv-

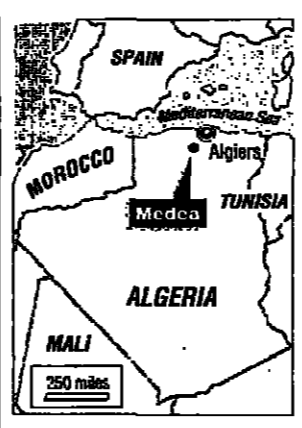
ing with 80mg of alcohol in 100mls of blood, 18mg above the legal limit, but denied falling to stop and then leaving the scene of an accident. He insisted he only left the scene after being assured the child was unhurt, in an attempt to avoid a scene. His secretary remained with the car. "I didn't think there was any doubt about my identity. I assumed people knew who I was. I had no reason to believe anyone was injured."

Barbara Lord, Sir Nicholas's constituency association agent, had no comment to make on the sentence. The court case is the latest public humiliation for Sir Nicholas, once hailed by Time magazine as a "future leader of the west" and joined the calls for him to resign. He was condemned to the backbenches in John Major's cabinet reshuffle two months later, but later earned the consolation of a knighthood.

Islamists kidnap monks

Paul Webster in Paris and Rachid Khizar in AP in Algiers

THE French government has made an urgent appeal for its nationals to leave Algeria or risk attacks by Islamist terrorists after Algerian gunmen kidnapped seven Trappist monks early yesterday. The monks were seized at 1.30am in their remote monastery by suspected members of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), which was behind last year's bombings in France between July and November. French officials said they feared for the monks' safety. Seven French priests and nuns have been murdered in Algeria since 1993, along with 25 other French nationals. The kidnapping followed a prolonged gun battle between government and rebel forces in the mountainous Medea region, 40 miles south of Algiers. The newspaper el-Wakef said 17 guerrillas were killed near the monastery, Notre Dame de l'Atlas, in the remote village of Tibhirine. Pierre Claverie, bishop of Oran, said the kidnappers gained entry by asking to see



a monk, aged 62, who is a doctor. They appeared to want help for a wounded comrade. "They took seven monks who were sleeping in the main building, including the doctor who is very sick," the bishop said. "Two other monks were not kidnapped." A spokesman for the Algerian Catholic diocese said there had been no contact with the kidnappers, nor any ransom demand. Security for the 300 foreign priests and nuns in Algeria had been increased.

The archbishop of Algiers, Henri Teissier, issued a plea to the kidnappers to spare the monks' lives. "We place them in the hands of God's divine mercy... so that those who abducted them respect their lives because all life belongs to God," he said. The French foreign ministry condemned the "odious act" against missionaries. "Despite the dangers, they continue to pursue their mission among the Algerian population... of generosity and charity," the foreign minister, Hervé de Charette, said. As Algerian authorities started a manhunt for the kidnappers, who were described as a "criminal gang", there was anxiety in France that the GIA could renew its bombings. The assault on the monastery came a day after eight Muslim fundamentalists were arrested in Nice. Two more were detained yesterday. The arrests followed threats that the GIA was preparing to revenge the killing of four Algerians by French security forces in Marseilles after the hijacking of an Air France airliner in Algiers at Christmas 1994.

Journalists win fight on disclosure of sources

Clare Dyer

JUDGES' powers to jail or fine journalists for refusing to reveal their sources were radically curbed yesterday by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. It held by an 11 to seven majority that judges' wide powers to order journalists to disclose the name of a source "in the interests of justice" were "not necessary in a democratic society". This may force the Government to change the Contempt of Court Act 1981, which allows for disclosure of sources if necessary for national security, prevention of disorder or crime, or in the interests of justice. In future, judges will have to give greater weight to the importance of freedom of speech.

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ating children loose along the models... Clarke... Virginia Bottom... Cricket... It seems the Devil himself wronged to invade...



# DiETING children choose wrong role models

Alex Bellos on a weighty problem

**SUPERMODEL** imagery is so ingrained in children's minds that half of all 11 and 12-year-old girls are worried about their weight and shape, a survey claimed yesterday. Many are risking their health to be unnaturally thin.

Boys are also susceptible, with a third of that age range anxious about their physique, according to the Health Education Authority report.

It concludes the era of the supermodel — in which the likes of Naomi Campbell are regarded as celebrities and as a consequence used to advertise products as unglamorous as yoghurt — is to blame for younger and younger children being concerned about the way they look, as they strive and fail to live up to an unrealistic image.

Marie O'Riordan, editor of the leading fashion magazine *ELLE*, said it was "awful" that such young children felt pressure to conform to certain perceptions of beauty, but she did not think her magazine had a responsibility to break the stereotype.

"I do not think we dictate what is going on. We just reflect it. There is a cult of beauty and glamour which there always has been. The only reason we are aware of it now is that the media is more sophisticated."

She said she believed the fashion world was taking on board criticisms that it was too obsessed with thinness. "I think there is a change. It is a reaction to the demands of the consumer who are real women. A lot of designers are looking more for 'real people'."

"If you look at the new models they are more individual looking. It is their faces looking in the way which is most important."

Lesley Johnston, deputy editor of *Mizz*, which is aimed at teenagers, said her magazine was aware of the dangers of promoting the "supermodel" image. She added that pictures of normal girls outnumber models in *Mizz* by a ratio of about five to one. "We try



The era of the supermodel, such as Jodie Kidd, is blamed for ever younger children striving for an unrealistic image

to demystify the fashion process. We will have pictures of models being made up. We try to show their aspirational quality but we try to say that is not the real world. We would never encourage girls to diet."

She agreed that fashion magazines like *Marie Claire* were slowly moving away from supermodels to using "real people".

Meanwhile, parents are floundering in their attempts to help their children deal with this anxiety because they are ill-equipped to discuss sensitive issues such as sex and body image, said the report.

# Clarke restores official car perk

David Hencke, Westminster Correspondent

**THE** Government caused a parliamentary row yesterday when it exempted ministers from paying income tax on their private use of daily chauffeur-driven cars between home and work.

Boothroyd, the Speaker of the House of Commons, who have the use of ministerial cars. A sub-clause allows the Government to pay Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, £40,000 a year tax-free to use his own car and chauffeur on public business. He also benefits from a tax allowance on the car.

ministerial cars and benefits to spouses on official trips. Last night a row broke out in the Commons when Labour's shadow financial secretary, Michael O'Brien, demanded that the proposed change be referred to Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner on Standards, or the Nolan Committee.

He accused ministers of trying to sneak the clause on to the statute book without the public noticing and demanded to know why the provisions were so wide-ranging, with tax exemptions including the use of ministerial cars by "spouses, families and members of their household".

# Virginia Bottomley's brother secures plum rail franchise

Keith Harper, Transport Editor

**BRITAIN'S** fastest and most modern railway line is to be run by a private-sector team led by the brother of Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, it emerged last night.

11 million passenger journeys in 1995, with revenue around £250 million. Mr Garnett has been given the job by Sea Containers, which owns the company. He worked for Sealink until parts of it were taken over in 1980. He joined Eurotunnel as commercial director in 1991 and was responsible for sales and marketing at the debt-ridden Channel Tunnel operator.

from a bid for Great Western Trains because it was unhappy that the franchise was only for seven years. Its president, James Sherwood, said this was not long enough to reap enough profits from any investments in the enterprise.

● Railtrack, already under attack from BR for its incompetence in handling the Stafford train crash earlier this month, yesterday took the unprecedented step of apologising to thousands of passengers, for "operational difficulties" in the Euston station area over the past few weeks.

**Cricket is not the national sport; moaning about it is. It seems probable that when the first shepherd boys on the Downs started hitting a ball around with their crooks, someone was on hand to moan that they were doing it all wrong, while several others had formed a sub-committee to investigate their failings.**

Matthew Engel on page 4

Exeter choice 'not fit' because of death trial evidence

# Fury as Labour rejects candidate

Patrick Wintour and Geoffrey Gibbs

**THE** Labour Party's national executive committee yesterday ended months of speculation by ruling that the former anti-apartheid activist John Lloyd was not a fit person to be its parliamentary candidate for Exeter.

**'His lack of openness undermined his position as a candidate'**

— NEC statement

The decision was met with anger among senior party members in the constituency, one of Labour's key target seats at the next election, and could lead to open confrontation between the NEC and the local party.

**'I resent the charge that I misled the general secretary. I regard this as a trumped up charge: a device to get rid of me. I have at all times been open and co-operative'**

— John Lloyd

Mr Lloyd, who has received overwhelming support from Labour members in the city since the controversy over his role in the African Resistance Movement broke last year, said he was bitterly disappointed.

**'I resent the charge that I misled the General Secretary'**

The NEC made its decision after months of painstaking research by the party's General Secretary, Tom Sawyer, and a five-strong panel had interviewed and unanimously found Mr Lloyd's lack of openness had brought into question his credibility and integrity as a candidate.

Mr Owen said his general committee would meet on April 2 to decide what action to take. The constituency party has no right of appeal and Mr Owen admitted that its options are limited.

"I shall be listening to the views of the members of the Exeter Labour Party before taking any decision on the request to stand down."

But some members have already warned that "sparks will fly" as a result of the decision. The NEC ruled by 16 to 5 that Mr Lloyd should be asked to stand down and, if he fails to do so, be instructed that he has been de-endorsed.

Keith Owen, chairman of the Exeter Labour Party, said: "Exeter Labour Party has given strong and consistent support to John Lloyd since he was selected last August. The executive committee is very unhappy that the con-

stituency party's views have been overruled and that the principle of the selection of parliamentary candidates by the local party on the basis of one member one vote has been undermined."

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continued from page 1  
dard" of A levels. Tories were won over by the report's emphasis on rigour and maintaining standards in A levels and vocational qualifications.

A levels if they were of equal quality. "We have set ourselves challenging national targets for education and training for the year 2000. But Germany and Japan have already surpassed these targets."

Teachers broadly welcomed the report but the National Union of Teachers and the lecturers' union, Naffes, regretted that Sir Ron had not gone further towards integrating A levels with other qualifications, and the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers feared significant extra work for staff.

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Tensions ease between Brussels and Whitehall as Kinnock and Brittan claim credit for winning key concessions from commission

# Europe pledges aid to beef farmers

## EC promises to review its BSE measures in six weeks

Stephen Bates in Brussels

**N**EL Kinnock and Sir Leon Brittan, the two British European commissioners, were claiming credit in Brussels last night for substantially modifying the ban on British beef imposed unanimously yesterday.

The two key concessions wrung from the commission during the course of its meeting were a review of the ban in six weeks, and the unspecified promise of financial compensation for farmers: a vital formula to ease the tension between Whitehall and Brussels.

The package of measures adopted unanimously by the 20 European commissioners imposes an immediate world-wide ban on all British beef, including pharmaceutical and cosmetic by-products, and foodstuffs with beef extracts in them, including some sweets and biscuits.

Britain will have to adopt a package of further measures to eradicate the disease —

**'Some of the remarks this week against Britain have bordered on racism'**

slaughtering was unspecified but clearly part of the commission's thinking — and will have to report fortnightly to Brussels.

Officials said last night that the commission and the British Government were reaching out hands towards each other to reach agreement on what extra measures the EU will deem necessary to rescue the British beef industry.

Yesterday's statement by Franz Fischler, the agriculture commissioner, was noticeably more emollient in tone than his comments earlier in the week.

He talked of collegiality and solidarity in solving the problem together.

It was clear also that at the forefront of the commission's concerns was the spread of blanket bans on all European meat by China and Egypt and the urgent need to protect farmers and preserve the agricultural economies of other member states.

Curiously though, Germany is to be required to reopen its borders to admit meat from Switzerland, which also has BSE among its herds, though on a much lesser scale than Britain.

Mr Fischler refused to specify what additional measures the commission was looking for from Britain, or to outline what the order of compensation offered from EU funds might be.

If the commission were to use the intervention system, which is used to buy surplus food products and which is probably the most obvious source of funding, the aid might be quite limited.

Under the rules, the food is supposed to be of saleable quality — which the beef clearly is not — and would only apply to male cattle under two years old.

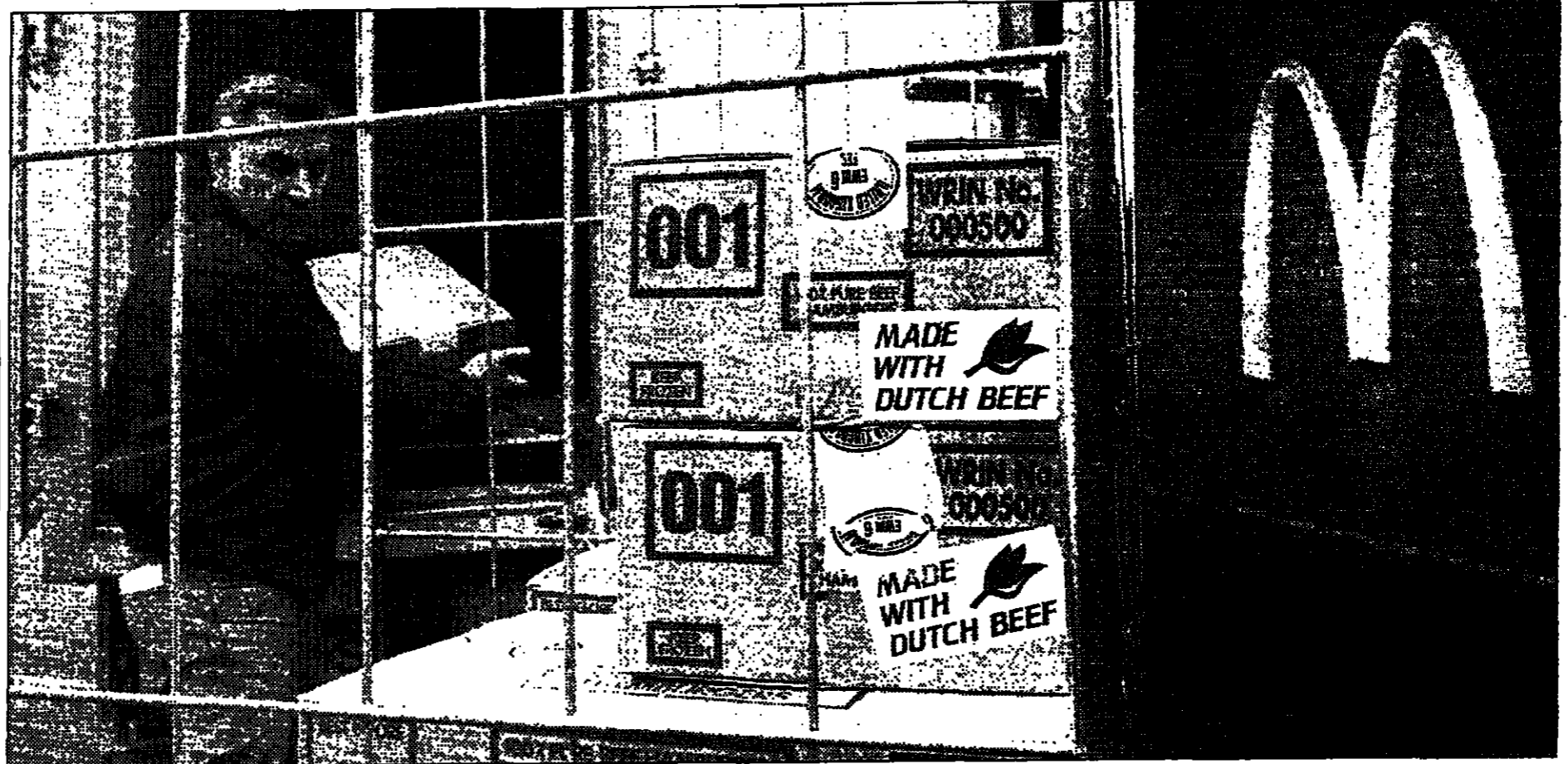
Mr Fischler said: "There are no blank cheques, nor should the impression be given that we are just waiting to pay out."

"We need to talk about the British proposals first and then we will be prepared to discuss the funding. I cannot speculate about amounts. It is very damaging to do that."

There are other possible sources of funding, and the agriculture budget is currently underpinned.

Mr Fischler, with a clear eye to Britain's Eurosceptics, said wryly: "The common agricultural policy has funds and perhaps in future the critics of the CAP might be a little more careful in the criticisms they make."

Letters, page 8; Natasha Walter and Martin Woolfson, page 9



Beefed up... A load of Dutch beefburgers arriving at McDonald's in Edinburgh yesterday to go on sale today. The fast food chain has banned British beef. PHOTOGRAPH BY MURDO MACLEOD

## Hogg says cattle slaughter could cost £550m

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

**T**HE agriculture minister, Douglas Hogg, yesterday conceded that plans to cull 4.5 million older cows could cost the Treasury more than £550 million a year in compensation, or possibly less with European Union funding.

A selective cull is being pressed on the Government by the National Farmers Union, and is a front runner for cabinet endorsement.

Mr Hogg, along with Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, was speaking at a day-long joint session of the Commons agriculture and health select committees, where both effectively conceded there would have to be a mass, if selective, slaughter to restore domestic and EU consumer confidence.

Government scientists repeatedly tried to reassure MPs that since regulations were revised in 1989 there was no evidence BSE could cause serious illness — but

they said final scientific reassurance might take two years. However, John Pattison, chairman of the Government's advisory committee on beef, admitted it had been disturbing that unannounced visits to British abattoirs last year found strong evidence of rules being flouted on the need to remove affected tissue from carcasses.

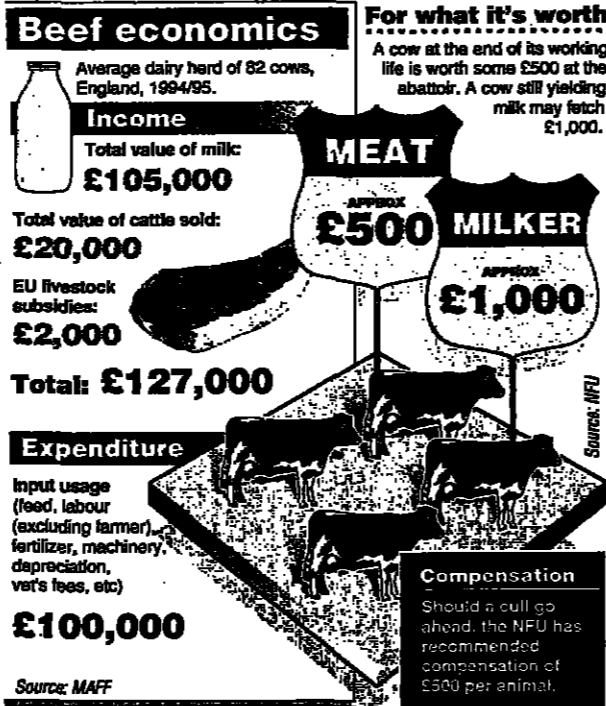
Mr Hogg was unable to say how many rule breaches there had been since surveillance was handed over to local councils to the Meat Hygiene

Service. It also appeared no abattoir had been prosecuted. But he denied Labour claims that deregulation of the industry in the early 1980s was responsible for BSE.

Mr Dorrell said the Government believed it had done everything necessary to make British beef acceptably safe. But he added: "Yesterday the argument moved on; the question is no longer the safety of British beef... the question now is consumer confidence."

Mr Dorrell said this was "a grotesque misrepresentation". Tory MP Edward Leigh, who attacked Mr Hogg for falling to give a clear line on slaughtering, then warned: "There will be a statement made about some kind of partial slaughter policy, but then you will jump [BSE expert and government critic] Professor Lacey or one of our other 'friends' who will say 'this is far too little, too late'. They will start undermining public confidence again, and we will be back where we were."

Labour's Dale Campbell-Savours accused the Government of a cover-up by refusing to fund Harash Narang's research into a live test for BSE. He said this was because ministers did not want him walking round abattoirs doing tests.



## Swiss controls 'contained outbreak'

Second worst-hit country in Europe links 207 mad cow cases directly to British imports. Alex Duval-Smith reports

**C**URRENT cases of mad cow disease abroad can be traced either to animals directly imported from Britain or to feed produced in the UK between 1982 and 1988, according to scientists who have studied outbreaks in Switzerland — the second worst-hit country in Europe.

Swiss scientists and politicians are confident they have contained BSE, but they continue to impose stringent controls, including spot checks on feed manufacturers and the isolation of calves born to stricken animals.

biologist I cannot say I have 100 per cent proof. "But with the research we have done and the statistics we hold, I can confidently say that BSE has ended here."

The Swiss scientists concede that their sample, while being the biggest in continental Europe, is still considerably smaller than Britain's. Out of 2.5 million head of cattle, there has been 207 reported cases of mad cow disease since 1990.

bound to create an intensive bovine farming culture. Even though there have been 21 slaughters linked to suspected BSE this year alone, the year-on-year increase in sharp decline.

The animals which were diagnosed this year and last were all more than six years old. Ms Piguet said this indicates that they ingested British-made feed containing animal protein — drawn, for example, from sheep brains infected with scrapie — before it was banned in Switzerland in 1990.

To ensure that farmers do not revert, illegally, to using cheap animal-based protein to secure a high yield, Swiss veterinary authorities carry out spot checks on the mills which mix cattle feed.

only found traces of animal protein twice. Both times it has transpired that this was residue from batches of feed for poultry or sheep.

While there is speculation in Britain that BSE may be transmitted from mother to calf, Miss Piguet said there was no evidence of this in Switzerland.

She said: "As a precaution, we isolate the calves born to BSE animals, ban them from sale and keep them under observation. So far, none have developed BSE. "This does not rule out the phenomenon in Britain, where thousands more calves can be studied."

## Defence chiefs launch code to fight racial discrimination

David Fairhall, Defence Correspondent

**A**TTEMPTS to end racial discrimination in the armed forces, which will be embodied in a new code of practice, will be announced today to counter harsh criticism expected in a report by the Commission for Racial Equality.

Defence chiefs and the CRE will sign a joint "action plan agreement" to establish the code on ethnic recruitment and career development. The army intends to appoint equal opportunity advisers in every unit.

Military officials hope to rectify their persistent failure to attract members of the ethnic minorities at a time when the forces are drastically

short of manpower — a shortfall of 2,500 in the infantry alone. Last year the navy recruited 0.6 per cent from ethnic minorities, the army 1 per cent and the RAF 1.2 per cent.

The CRE will publish a report today on a formal investigation of racial discrimination in the Household Cavalry.

prompted by the case of Corporal Jake Maloch, an engineer who applied in 1992 for a transfer to the Life Guards, only to be told they did not welcome black soldiers.

He lodged a complaint with the CRE. The army took up his case and awarded him £8,500 compensation. He stayed on and is now a sergeant in a tank regiment.

## Mothers turn to High Court to force clean-up of beach 'playground'

Two mothers yesterday asked the High Court to force a clean-up of a beach which is their children's "park and playground".

Rachel Shelley, aged 21, and Sara Delaney, aged 28, from the village of Fordington on the north Cornish coast, accuse Carrick district council of unlawfully refusing last June to serve an abatement notice on South West Water,

which is responsible for sewage disposal in the area. Portlinoan beach was park and playground to Ms Shelley's 13-month-old son, Petroc, and Ms Shelley's 11-month-old son, Kai, said David Farnick QC.

"Sadly the beach does suffer from a regular deposit of sewage-related debris, in particular sanitary towels and condoms," said Mr Farnick.

Documents showed the authority recognised the beach was polluted because South West Water had not placed screens over outfalls.

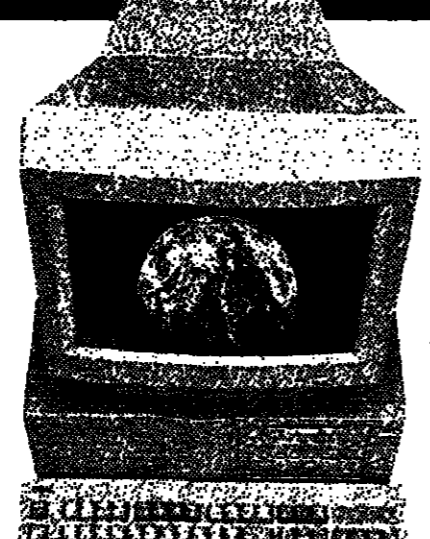
Rhodri Price Lewis, for Carrick council, said that there was no evidence when the council decided not to issue a notice that there was a statutory nuisance.

The council's environmental officer had reported that less than 1kg a day of debris had been collected on 100,000 square metres of beach.

Mr Lewis said of council members: "They are not burying their heads in the sand. They want the matter to be further investigated so they can take a fully informed decision."

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**Inquiry calls for more checks on dangerous patients after murders by 'pleasant' misfit, David Brindle reports**



Inquiry chairman Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, and victims Arthur and Shirley Wilson

**Getting into the mind of a killer**

**Health workers 'must look closer at mentally ill before release'**

**H**EALTH workers must do more to penetrate the hidden "inner world" of potentially dangerous mentally ill patients before they are released into the community, an inquiry into the killing of three Suffolk villagers said yesterday.

There must be a far deeper understanding of such people's backgrounds by professionals with "more than a nodding acquaintance with the patient's childhood experiences and development through adolescence", according to Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, the inquiry chairman.

The inquiry has also called

for an overhaul of the mental health review tribunal system, by which detained patients can win discharge. Jason Mitchell, who carried out the killings, had been given a deferred conditional discharge within 18 months of a previous attack for which he had been charged with attempted murder.

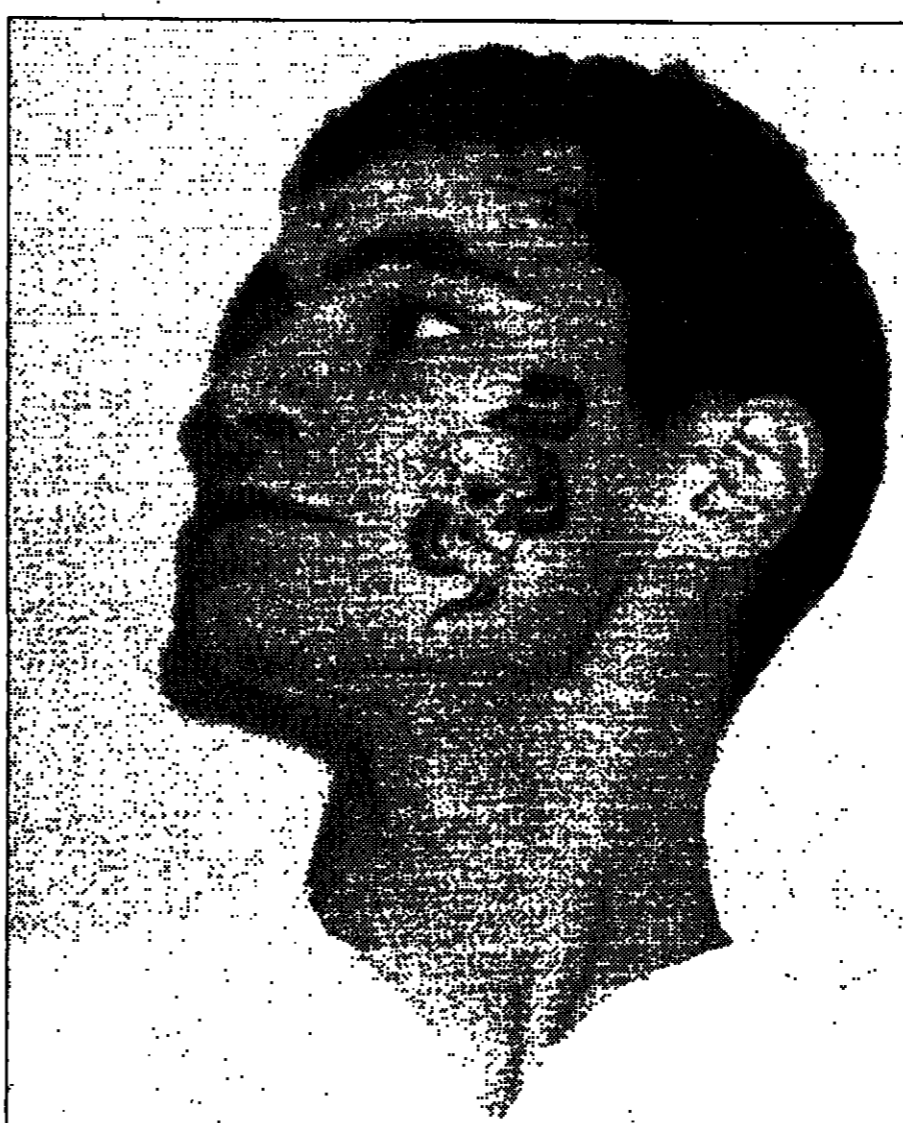
Mitchell, now 25, is in Rampton top security hospital after being jailed for life for the killings in December 1994 of Arthur and Shirley Wilson, a retired couple, and his own father, Robert, in the village of Bramford, near Ipswich. The Wilsons were strangled after Mitchell, who

walked out of the Easton House rehabilitation unit at St Clement's hospital, Ipswich. Five days later, he strangled his father and dismembered his body at the nearby Mitchell family home.

Unlike the verdicts on some other recent care-in-the-community tragedies, the inquiry report says no individual other than Mitchell can be blamed, and there was no question of shortage of resources.

However, the report does criticise the limited therapeutic regime in which Mitchell was treated.

Important reports on Mitchell by professionals



Jason Mitchell: showed no awareness of the terror and suffering of his victims

other than psychiatrists and nurses were neglected.

The report's other main criticism is that there was an unrealistic view of Mitchell's ability to cope in the community, given his persistently poor social relations and regular resort to illicit drugs.

Sir Louis said the main lesson from the report, which has made 49 recommendations, was the need for much improved sharing of information among agencies working with the mentally ill.

Christopher Wilson, the dead couple's son, said: "It is quite clear from the report that there has been a catalogue of errors and lack of judgment."

Mental health pressure groups, including Mind and Sane, welcomed the call for reform of the tribunal system.

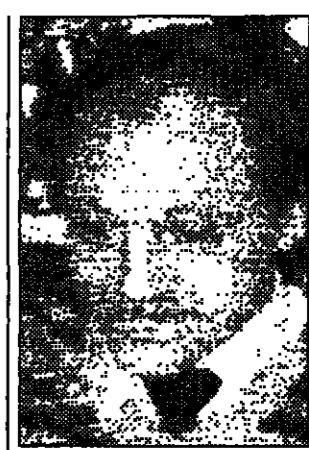
The Case of Jason Mitchell; Duckworth, The Old Piano Factory, 48 Hoxton Square, London N1 6PB, £13.99

**Young man's journey to triple murder**

**W**HEN interviewed by the inquiry panel in Rampton hospital, Jason Mitchell is said to have seemed "skilled and pleasant" and to have shown no awareness of the terror and suffering of his victims.

His description of a poor relationship with his father is contradicted by the evidence of others who recalled the two as having been close and the son as having been spoiled.

Mitchell, youngest of five children, was about nine months old when his mother left home. His father, Robert, gave up work at a flour mill to care for the family. By the time Jason was eight, the elder children had left home.



Robert Mitchell... left to bring up five children

According to Jason, his father became embittered, withdrawn and sometimes violent, leaving him to take over household tasks. Schoolwork suffered.

However, Fiona Mitchell, a sister, told the inquiry that Jason had grown wild and difficult to control. As a teenager he had stolen money from their father to buy drugs. When she had last seen the two together, seven months before the killings — they had talked cheerfully.

Jason, who was 24 when he committed the killings, had been caught for shoplifting as young as eight and placed in a special school. His educational record was characterised by truancy, anti-social behaviour and clashes with authority.

He first appeared in court at 16, charged with theft and taking a vehicle. He was first reported as behaving "strangely" while on remand in custody two years later. Sentenced to two years' youth

custody for offences including robbery, he was ultimately sent to the Feltham young offenders' institution.

He was diagnosed as mentally ill after he attacked a church cleaner in Epsom in February 1990, but failure by psychiatrists to agree that he had schizophrenia, and failure to piece together his past, left him able to leave his hospital placement on December 3, 1994.

Eleven days later, he was arrested for the killings.

In a remarkable statement to the inquiry, Christopher Wilson, son of the couple Mitchell killed, said on behalf of his family: "Every agency has gone into great detail to explain their role of the care and control of Jason Mitchell and their aspirations for him.

"We must not forget that he is now locked away for a long, long time. He is also a victim; and I say to those agencies: you have all failed him."

**Steps called for in report**

- Crown Prosecution Service should circulate full details of serious incidents involving mentally disordered people, irrespective of outcome of criminal proceedings.
- Assessments by professionals other than psychiatrists and nurses should be taken fully into account.
- Mental health review tribunals should be reassessed in context of full review of Mental Health Act 1983.
- Medical members of tribunals dealing with restricted patients should ideally be forensic psychiatrists. Psychologists should be considered for further tribunal place.
- Police should agree "missing patient" procedures with local hospitals and social services, and should inquire into repeated absconding.

**Silence of the Lambs 'may have influenced Mitchell'**

It is "conceivable" that Jason Mitchell identified with Hannibal Lecter, the fictional serial killer in the novel and film *Silence of the Lambs*, the report says.

Parallels existed between Mitchell's actions and those of the main characters in both *Silence of the Lambs*, and *Red Dragon*, an earlier novel by the same author, Thomas Harris.

Mitchell had both books, and watched a video of *Silence of the Lambs* while staying at a hostel in Felixstowe run by the mental health charity Mind. He loaned the books to another resident.

The significance of the books and film needed to be treated with great caution. The report noted one psychiatrist's view that Mitchell wanted to believe he was influenced.

His own comments appeared ambiguous. He told

the inquiry team: "I needed to make an impact killing — it had a big influence on me and the rest of society because he was my own father."

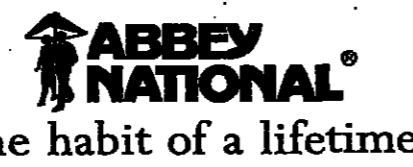
"In *Silence of the Lambs* he says he killed his parents when he was six or seven old. It had no bearing at all on my killing my father. If a job's worth doing, it's worth doing well. I'd had an impact kill. I regret I didn't finish what I'd planned and kill more people."

The report notes similarities between the case and *Red Dragon* and *Silence of the Lambs*. But the two inquiry panel members who interviewed Mr Mitchell at Rampton say: "Both of us noted how reference to *Silence of the Lambs* and serial killing spontaneously came into the content of Jason Mitchell's interviews. There are also many points of difference between [his] behaviour and the stories of the novels."

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# 6 WORLD NEWS

## Bitter Giscard's adieu threatens Gaullist priorities

# Vengeful rebel seeks UDF throne

Paul Webster in Paris

**A**LAIN MADELIN, the rebel French finance minister removed from government in August after a provocative outburst, has become a favourite to take over the leadership of the right-wing Union for French Democracy (UDF) from Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

Mr Madelin is likely to seek political revenge against the Gaullist prime minister, Alain Juppé, who sacked him after his attack on "cossetted" civil servants and people on income support.

Mr Madelin's triumphant return to parliament in a Brittany by-election, and his best-selling political analysis, When Ostriches Raise their Heads, has made him the most popular figure on the non-Gaullist right.

Members of the UDF — a multi-party coalition with 12 ministers in government — will vote for their new chairman in Lyons on Sunday. The former defence minister François Léotard is Mr Madelin's main rival.

The biggest shake-up on the right since Mr Giscard formed the UDF in 1978 has become a more serious threat to Gaullist priorities than the revival of the Socialist Party.

Opinion polls show Mr Madelin, aged 50, is the favourite to lead the UDF. The coalition has more than 200 MPs and controls most French regions and some big cities.

Mr Madelin's ultra-liberal ideas on the economy, and the Thatcherite distrust of state welfare and entrenched bureaucracy which ruffled Mr Juppé, are refinements of an extreme right-wing political structure, which encompasses all the elements of the non-Gaullist right except the racist National Front, has been its main obstacle to becoming France's biggest political movement, despite its controlling the senate.

Mr Giscard's epic political battles with Jacques Chirac over more than 20 years of uneasy coalition have left him embittered and disillusioned.

Before he gathered together the so-called centrist parties in 1978 more than 1 million people bought his political credo, French Democracy, with its promise of a caring France and a new Europe.

But his claim that two out of three voters preferred a centrist consensus to resist socialism and Gaullism was proved doubly wrong by François Mitterrand's presidential success in 1981 and Mr Chirac's election in 1985. Mr Giscard wanted to run

for the presidency again last year, but was let down by key leaders. His unrelenting role as guardian of European priorities and monetarist values was not enough to compensate for the humiliation of playing a secondary role.

"Giscard thinks that no one has his stature, so he is not going to name the next chairman," a UDF deputy said. "Having said that, he has less enmity for Madelin than Léotard."

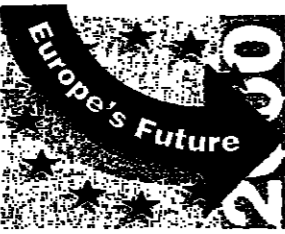
Both contenders come from the Republican Party, a movement created by Mr Giscard to put a brake on Charles de Gaulle during the 1960s. There has been hostility between Mr Giscard and Mr Léotard, aged 57, ever since the former chose the future defence minister to run the Republican Party, the biggest section of the UDF.

Mr Léotard played heavily on his youth in attempts to unseat Mr Giscard, but the quarrel has gone on so long that Mr Léotard now looks like a veteran.

Mr Juppé cannot hope that a Madelin defeat will avoid further division in the governing coalition, because Mr Léotard — who has little time for President Chirac — is backed by the highest-ranking minister, François Bayrou, who is in charge of education.

# South glimpses hidden costs of EU benefits

In Mediterranean countries, doubts about the course set by Maastricht are overshadowing gains of the past, reports **John Hooper** from Rome, while Italy keeps rebelliousness under wraps



Popular Party won this month's Spanish general election, has made it clear that, if he can form a coalition, his government will take a more Gaullist line than Felipe Gonzalez and his Socialists.

In Greece, there may be bipartisan support for unification but there is growing scepticism whether a single currency can be launched by the 1999 deadline, and scant conviction that Greece will be ready to join at the start if it is.

Greece is the only Mediterranean country which has taken a firm line on a specific issue in a way that could jeopardise the outcome of the IGC. His reputation battered by a stand-off with the Turks over a disputed islet in the Aegean, the new prime minister, Costas Simitis, warned earlier this month: "As long as our vital national interests are not safeguarded by EU commitments, Greece will always keep its right of veto active."

The clout of Greece and the other net aid recipients is nevertheless circumscribed by their dependence on EU handouts. Paradoxically, it is Italy — the only country in southern Europe — with the moral authority to question the direction the Union is taking — which is least inclined to do so.

There have been suggestions of an incipient Italian rebelliousness. Sergio Berlusconi's foreign minister, Antonio Martino, was taken by some British Conservatives to be a Euro-sceptic until it emerged that he was in favour of a single currency.

More critical attitudes were speculation that Italy's foreseeable difficulties in meeting the criteria for monetary union might dim its enthusiasm for the introduction of the euro. But last Sunday the present foreign minister, Susanna Agnelli, swept away doubts, even looking forward to a "United States of Europe".

Next: How Britain sees the EU. Hugo Young, page 9

It so happened that the Maastricht treaty came up for ratification by the lower houses of southern Europe's two biggest member states on the same day — October 29 1992.

In Italy, the treaty had been rejected by both the neo-fascist MSI and the orthodox Marxists of Communist Re-foundation. Even so, the vote was not what you would call close: 403 in favour, 46 against, with 18 abstentions. A report noted that "most MPs had shown great indifference to the debate".

In Spain, the entire ratification process lasted just two hours. The outcome was 314 for, three against and eight abstentions. The "no" votes came from members of the electoral wing of the Basque terrorist organisation ETA.

Until recently, to oppose greater European integration in southern Europe was tantamount to declaring yourself a crank or an extremist.

In part this was simply self-interest. What the poorer countries of Mediterranean Europe have found in the EU is a club which pays them to be a member. Athens's new underground, Portugal's motorways, the high-speed rail link between Madrid and Seville — all were built with handouts from Brussels.

A deal agreed at the Edinburgh summit four years ago envisaged that by 1999 Portugal and Greece would be getting aid equivalent to 6 per cent of their gross domestic products. For Spain, the fig-

ure was 1.3 per cent. Italy may no longer be a net beneficiary, but it received strong support from the old six-member EEC and it can be argued states on the same day — October 29 1992.

Other factors have been at work, though. For the most part, southern Europeans have less faith in — and less respect for — their nation's democratic institutions than, say, the British.

In Spain and Italy there are powerful regional forces at work which membership of a wider Europe promises to dilute. Among Greeks and Spaniards there is a good deal of historic insecurity over their countries' "European-ness".

Against this background, southern Europeans have generally been slow to distinguish between enthusiasm for membership of the EU and a commitment to the course set out in Maastricht. As the reality of unification grows closer, the distinction is becoming clearer and a slightly more critical attitude can be expected during the inter-governmental conference (IGC).

In Portugal, both main parties remain firmly committed to meeting the criteria for economic and monetary union. But at last October's general election the right-wing PP-CDS tripled its representation in parliament with a campaign questioning the cost, in jobs and bankruptcies, to a weak economy.

Next: How Britain sees the EU. José Maria Aznar, whose



Unsafe European home... Some of the 100 African immigrant families evicted from a gymnasium by police last Sunday sit in the annex of St Jean-Baptiste de la Salle church in Paris yesterday

# Yeltsin to sup off silver spoons

David Hearst in Moscow

**B**ORIS YELTSIN, a village lad who spent his childhood sleeping on the floor of a room in a communal hut in Perm because his labourer father was too poor to buy furniture, was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth.

There are signs that, as Russian president, he intends to rectify this. One of these is an extraordinarily large contract which Robbe and Berking, a long-established firm of silversmiths in the German town of Flensburg, received in February.

It is to provide 6,000 pieces of silver cutlery over the next six months for four official residences of the Russian government. At DM160 (£72) a teaspoon or DM22,000 (£12,700) for a candlestick, there is no hiding the sound of joyful tapping in the smithies of Flensburg.

The design chosen for the privilege of being embellished with by the Russian double-headed imperial eagle is the "Alt-Spaten", which the firm first produced in 1889 — a suitably imperial era for Russia's post-communist president.

Apparently the spoon first came to the president's attention during his last official visit to Bonn when he stayed in Peterberg, the official German government residence.

The president's silver is only the latest of a series of acquisitions destined to pamper his last days in office. Last year the men of the people left his ZIL in the garage and appeared for the first time in a stretched Mercedes 600.

Ever since, Russian bureaucrats have been gleefully abandoning their throaty black Volgas to pour around town in a new government fleet of six-cylinder Audi A6s. Eighteenth-century reproduction furniture from Italy has begun filling Mr Yeltsin's official residence in the Kremlin Senate Palace. The International Monetary Fund would have to suspend its new loan if it has approved for Russia if a new Russian government to be elected this year took a communist approach to the economy, a top IMF official said yesterday yesterday.

## News in brief

### No word from captive Briton

Cambodian authorities had failed by late yesterday to contact gunman holding a British mine disposal expert and his interpreter and said the kidnappers might be heading into rebel territory. "If tonight, tomorrow morning, nobody comes to talk, I have no hope [of a swift release]," the governor of Siem Reap province, Teou Chhay, told reporters. — Reuter.

### China-Israel deal

China and Israel will work together to have more Israeli firms participate in Chinese development projects, the finance ministers of the two countries announced yesterday. — AP.

### Editors freed

A Zambian court yesterday ordered the immediate release of two newspaper editors jailed by parliament for criticising its members and the government. — AP.

### Kenya arms plant

A Belgian arms company has built a munitions plant in north-west Kenya and is training production staff, a Belgian newspaper said yesterday. It said the \$5 million plant was close to Rwanda and Burundi. — Reuter.

### Grave racism

A church in Thomasville, Georgia, is trying to move the body of a baby born without a skull to a different cemetery because of her mixed race, the family says. — AP.

### Wedding ban

A Brazilian paraplegic said on Tuesday he may sue a Roman Catholic bishop who rejected his marriage application because he was impotent. — Reuter.

### Mexico quake

A moderate earthquake shook Mexico City and other southern cities early yesterday, although there were no immediate reports of deaths or damage. — Reuter.

### Cossetted custody

While other suspects languish in a top-security jail, a Croatian general is refusing to come for trial at the international war crimes tribunal until an apartment is arranged for him in The Hague. Such an arrangement is legal under tribunal rules. — AP.

# US warning angers Greeks

Helena Smith in Athens

**G**REECE's prime minister, Costas Simitis, strongly urged Washington yesterday to retract a warning to United States visitors that Athens airport is unsafe.

He told the US ambassador that the travel warning would seriously damage the country's tourism industry. Washington issued the

warning after Athens's international airport failed a safety inspection by US travel experts, despite repeated efforts to upgrade security standards.

"The Hellenikon airport does not maintain and carry out effective airport security measures," Federico Pena, the US transport secretary, said in a statement which is now appended to airline tickets for journeys between the two countries.

A similar travel warning by the Reagan administration in 1985 had devastating effects on tourism. US visitors to Greece dropped from 600,000 to 100,000 in less than a year.

Preoccupied with security after the US warning and a recent attempt by leftwing guerrillas to hit the US embassy in Athens with a rocket, the Greek authorities have arranged for thousands of police to guard the US first lady, Hillary Clinton, when she starts a three-day visit to the country today to watch the Olympic Flame lit for this year's Atlanta Games.

**We should not tell women who want to give up their children that they are callous in sending their babies away.**

Linda Grant **Q2** page 9

# Amazing holiday offer to employer helps man back to work.

From April, employers taking on someone who's been unemployed for two years or more may be able to enjoy a 12 month holiday from National Insurance contributions for that employee. Cut the coupon and you could cut your costs, or call Freephone 0800 88 44 11.

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Wins in California, Washington and Nevada give the senator the Republican presidential nomination

# Buchanan urged to quit as Dole soars

Martin Walker in Washington

**P**AT BUCHANAN will decide today whether to mount a third-party campaign from the right wing, after a day of fending off demands from fellow Republicans that he should withdraw from the now hopeless fight for the Republican presidential nomination and throw his support behind Senator Robert Dole.

"We are not defeated, and we are going all the way to the convention in San Diego to speak out," he said after winning only 16 per cent of the vote in the California primary, against Mr Dole's 64 per cent.

Mr Buchanan's own plan is to publish his "McLean Manifesto" of demands, lead by bans on abortion and affirmative action. It could leave his options open by serving as either the basis for a third party bid or the price of his support for Mr Dole, now assured of being the party's candidate after sweeping this week's primaries.

But leaders of the Christian Coalition and the Republican Party spent yesterday putting heavy pressure on Mr Buchanan's regional and state co-ordinators, his main fundraisers and his top allies on the religious right. They

gathered at his home in McLean, Virginia, today for the decisive meeting.

Threatened with virtual excommunication from the party and terrible revenge from a future Dole administration if they continue with the Buchanan campaign, his advisers are balancing their ideological convictions

## The battle for the Republican nomination is over and the battle for America begins

against political realities: whether or not he wins the presidency, Mr Dole will remain Senate leader.

The most likely result is a compromise in which Mr Buchanan again gets a proud place at the Republican convention and some seats on the committee which drafts the

party manifesto in return for his endorsement of the front-runner.

But the Dole camp is wary of repeating the political damage done by Mr Buchanan's incendiary prime-time speech to the Republican convention in 1992. Declaring "a cultural war for the soul of America", he offended moderate voters

Clinton in November. When pressed, they explained that their motive in voting for Mr Dole in the primary was to express their opposition to Mr Buchanan's extreme brand of Republicanism.

This turns the conventional wisdom of this election year on its head. Most analysts believe that Mr Dole's problem will be to rally the Republican right, the religious conservatives who supported Mr Buchanan. At least in California, polling data suggests that Mr Dole's problem is that party moderates already fear he has gone too far.

Despite the clear 15-point opinion poll lead President Clinton enjoys over Mr Dole in California, the state's Republican leaders are fighting hard to convince Mr Dole that he must not succumb to the advice of his campaign managers to write off their

state in advance. "It's going to be very hard to win, but it can be done with a real aggressive campaign, if you are prepared to spend the 10 million bucks a serious effort would need," commented Ken Khachigian, a veteran Republican strategist in California.

He cited the latest polls, showing that Californians favour Mr Dole over President Clinton by three to two as a commander-in-chief during a military crisis, and also rating him higher for honesty, integrity, family values and standing up for his beliefs.

"The battle for the Republican nomination is over and the battle for America's future is about to begin," Mr Dole said as the California primary finally pushed him over the 1,000-delegate threshold which guaranteed the nomination.



A boy watches from a bus leaving Dhaka as residents quit the capital before transport grinds to a halt in today's general strike. PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN MOORE

## Bangladeshi PM yields to opposition pressure

Reuters in Dhaka

**T**HE Bangladeshi prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, gave in to months of pressure yesterday and asked President Abdur Rahman Biswas to set up a caretaker government to oversee elections, state television reported.

Earlier, senior bureaucrats told the president they could not continue working unless the country's political crisis was resolved, and that all the parties had come to an agreement on the appointment of a caretaker government.

"The prime minister has requested the president to... immediately take the initiative to form a non-party caretaker government," state television said. "The prime minister also reiterated her pledge to hold the new election in May."

Ms Khaleda stopped short of meeting the opposition's demand that she should resign yesterday.

The opposition parties said she must stand down to enable a law mandating a caretaker government to take effect.

The parliament, which is composed almost entirely of members of Ms Khaleda's Bangladesh Nationalist Party, passed the law on Tuesday in an attempt to end the political crisis.

The Opposition parties have staged a long series of general strikes to try to force Ms Khaleda to resign and call elections under a neutral body.

## ANC calls for Inkatha arrests

David Heresford in Johannesburg

**T**HE South African rand fell sharply on financial markets yesterday in anticipation of a potentially violent showdown between the government and the Inkatha Freedom Party on the streets of Johannesburg today.

The African National Congress called for the arrest of Inkatha leaders planning a mass march through the commercial capital, after Chief Mangosuthu Buthe's party said the demonstrators would be carrying "traditional" weapons in defiance of a police ban.

The march will mark the anniversary of the 1994 "Shell House massacre", when ANC gunmen killed eight IFP demonstrators outside their Johannesburg headquarters.

In anticipation of the march and demonstrations in other areas, the government last Friday banned the carrying of traditional weapons — including spears, assegais, knobkerries, pangas, swords, sabres and battleaxes — in 74 magisterial districts.

The IFP prime minister in

KwaZulu, Frank Mdlalose, said yesterday that the ban was unenforceable and any attempt to impose it would lead to chaos and violence.

"Can you imagine what it is like to meet a whole sea of 10,000 people carrying their accoutrements, killing nobody, and enjoying song? Can you imagine what it is like to start arresting these people? That is what will set up violence," he said.

But the ANC minister responsible for security in the Gauteng regional government, Jessie Duarte, said: "The march will not be allowed to continue if these weapons are in the possession of any of the marchers."

She said every effort would be made to ensure that no injury nor loss of life occurs, but added: "The police are obliged to apply the laws of our country strictly to the letter."

The ANC deputy secretary-general, Cheryl Carolus, told a press conference at Shell House: "The intention of the march is to precipitate conflict and incite fear. We insist that those people calling for and inciting people to break the law should be arrested."

The Shell House killings have been a cause of tension between the ANC and the IFP since the elections, with Chief Buthe repeatedly accusing his political rivals of frustrating police investigations. The ANC, which claims it had intelligence of a planned attack on the building, has insisted that the killings were in self-defence. President Nelson Mandela's admission that he personally ordered security staff to open fire if necessary drew Inkatha demands for his prosecution for murder.

Ms Carolus said yesterday the ANC was co-operating fully with the investigations, having made statements to the attorney-general and surrendered weapons to the police.



Chief Buthe: his party is ready to defy weapons ban

## China demands HK loyalty test

An exodus looms because Hong Kong civil servants must pledge allegiance to the new regime, writes Andrew Higgins

**W**ITH only 460 days of colonial rule left, British officials are bracing themselves for a confrontational and chaotic end of empire after a Chinese decision to impose a political loyalty test on civil servants, the central pillar of Hong Kong's stability.

The announcement that senior bureaucrats must pledge allegiance to a Beijing-appointed provisional legislature if they wish to serve beyond the 1997 handover threatens to sap morale and trigger an exodus of administrators and professionals.

The move has been widely condemned as transplanting Communist Party political culture to Hong Kong in violation of a promise that the territory will enjoy a "high degree of autonomy". It further damages confidence, already badly shaken by Chi-

na's recent missile tests and military exercises near Taiwan: an ominous sign that Beijing is willing to sacrifice economic and diplomatic self-interest to enforce obedience.

The governor, Chris Patten, called on China yesterday to clarify its intentions, saying that a politically neutral civil service was essential.

"Anyone who doesn't understand that," he said, "doesn't understand how Hong Kong works, doesn't understand how the civil service works, doesn't understand the nature of a free society under the rule of law."

Hong Kong has opened an "express passport counter" to cope with a last-minute scramble by thousands of people before Sunday's deadline for British Dependent Territories Citizen (BDTC) passports. The document, available to about 2.2 million

people, carries no right of abode in Britain but provides an alternative to the Chinese Special Administrative Region passport Beijing will issue after 1997.

"If the confidence of the civil service is shaken it is like throwing a rock into a pond. The reverberations spread out through the whole society," said Michele DeGolyer, director of the Hong Kong Transition Project. "We are going to see a lot of people who were waiting to see how things were going now decide that it is better to be safe than sorry."

Frustrated in its attempts to scare voters away from President Lee Teng-hui in Saturday's Taiwanese election, China has moved swiftly to impose its increasingly hardline will on Hong Kong.

The day after the Taiwan election, the first time any Chinese society has elected its leader, a handpicked group of Hong Kong advisers voted 149-1 in Beijing to scrap Hong Kong's elected legislature. The one dissenter, Frederick Fung Kin-kee, was promptly

told he would be excluded from future decision-making bodies.

A British protest against the vote was mocked by Zhang Junsheng, a senior Chinese official in Hong Kong, as worthy of a "collection of the world's best political jokes".

The assembly will be replaced by the provisional legislature to which Hong Kong civil servants must pledge their loyalty. The new body is likely to be named by the end of the year, establishing a rival source of authority to a lame duck colonial government headed by Mr Patten.

Chen Ziyang, deputy director of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, announced on Tuesday that principal government officials must endorse the new legislature. In briefings with Hong Kong journalists in Beijing, Chinese officials say they must choose before the handover whether they wish to serve Mr Patten or accept the authority of the new legislature.

### News in brief

#### Bomb at grave in Colombia

Three men were arrested for seeking to turn a cemetery in the Colombian capital into a virtual killing field, police said yesterday.

They said the three were arrested on Tuesday shortly after planting a powerful remote-controlled bomb under a wreath in Bogota's Jardines del Apogeo cemetery. The bomb was placed beside the grave of the brother of a prominent dealer in contraband goods who has received death threats. — Reuters.

#### Grenade attack

A grenade thrown from a moving car exploded at the residence of the Honduran

president, blowing a three-foot hole in the garage floor. No one was injured. A presidential official blamed the attack on unspecified "opponents of the Liberal Party and of the president". — AP.

#### Hostages 'well'

Eleven hostages held by rebels in Indonesia's Irian Jaya were said to be well after they were visited yesterday by the International Red Cross, a source close to the operation said. — Reuters.

#### Tajik aid plea

The United Nations Children's Fund launched a world appeal yesterday to raise \$3.7 million to help women and children in Tajikistan, responding to "a forgotten and silent emergency". Tajik-

istan went through a civil war in 1992 and violent clashes continue. — Reuters.

#### Whales beach

Sixteen sperm whales were found dead yesterday on a western Danish island. Officials said it was the largest whale-beaching episode in Denmark. — AP.

#### Moscow drugs haul

Russian customs officers netted their fourth catch of drugs in less than a week at Moscow's international airport when they nabbed eight Africans smuggling cocaine and heroin from Peru. — AP.

#### Toxic torrent

More than 3,000 people are stranded in the central Philippines by a torrent of possibly

toxic mine waste which has poured into a river running by their villages, social welfare officials said yesterday. — Reuters.

#### Kashmir killing

The body of a prominent human rights activist was found yesterday, 19 days after he was reported abducted by men wearing Indian army uniforms, relatives and police said. Shopkeepers in Srinagar went on strike, and protesters took to the streets shouting anti-Indian slogans. — AP.

#### Modesty forbids

The supreme court of Pakistan ruled that male doctors may not perform autopsies on female corpses, claiming that to do so would offend Islamic respect for the dead. — AP.

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Yeltsin to sup off spoons

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## The manifesto wars

Labour bids boldly for grassroots power

IT is becoming fashionable to say you can't tell the Conservatives and Labour apart nowadays. Fashionable perhaps. Tempting occasionally. But still wrong. Anyone who needs reassurance on this important point should compare and contrast the separate consultation exercises launched by the two parties at Westminster yesterday. The Conservatives call theirs Our Nation's Future but have produced a document about party attitudes which is rooted in the prejudices of the past. Labour by contrast have set the scene for another innovation in British politics, by asking the party membership to vote on the next Labour manifesto before the end of the year. We still need to see the draft manifesto's contents, so final judgment on Labour's move must be carefully reserved. But both parties are steadily becoming truer to themselves in sharply different ways. As a result the dividing lines between them are taking clearer shape. So is the electoral choice facing Britain.

The Conservatives' document is intended to show a party coming together around a modern agenda. In fact it does neither. Our Nation's Future is the product of a large consultation exercise, apparently involving some 30,000 grassroots Tory activists, but it is not in any sense a scientific study or a reliable one. The document amply confirms the activists' Euroscepticism and preoccupation with a tax-cutting agenda and purports to show a broadly united right-wing party. But this is not the picture of the party revealed in the more searching survey of activists conducted by Sheffield University academics Whiteley, Seyd and Richardson in their book True Blues two years ago. The Sheffield team found that Tory Party members, especially the elderly, were much more supportive of health, education and welfare services than the party activists and leaders. Only 7 per

cent of their sample wanted lower taxes and less public spending on these services. Nearly three quarters supported stricter regulation of privatised state enterprises — a subject wholly ignored in yesterday's document, even though it is at the centre of the current beef argument. The reality is that the Conservative Party has been hijacked by individualist, anti-government rhetoric and that those who oppose it have been left to wither on the vine. That is one reason why the party's membership is collapsing by more than 60,000 every year and why no one except the new zealots now joins the once mighty Young Conservatives.

The Labour Party's plebiscite announcement is a more significant event than it may seem. It takes forward the process begun by the one-member-one-vote reforms in the 1980s and continued in the Clause Four debate last year. It means that the party membership will be much more directly involved in endorsing policy than it has ever been before. Where this leaves the respective powers of the plebiscite and the party conference is not yet clear, but the direction which is being followed is obvious. Power increasingly lies with the members rather than with conferences and committees, and inevitably this must be seen as part of the gradual weakening of the unions in the party. The real question now is whether member power can be made more than purely formal. There is no doubt from all the studies and evidence that Labour grassroots opinion generally supports the modernisation agenda. But history shows too many examples of the exploitation of plebiscites. Labour needs to find genuine ways of underpinning so that the members are not there simply to endorse what the leadership has already decided. Without innovation of that kind, the two parties really will look and function too much alike.

## Sir Ron's endearing proposals

The education troubleshooter triumphs again - with over 16s

TWO down, one to go. Sir Ron Dearing, Peacemaker Extraordinary, did it again yesterday. Two years on from successfully ending the destructive classroom war over the national curriculum and tests, Sir Ron's latest report appears to have achieved a consensus on an equally crucial challenge: the biggest restructuring of post-16 education for 40 years. Not even the myopic old buffers who still defend A levels ("our education gold standard") dared chirrup. All was harmony and light even in the Commons where Opposition spokesmen and backbench MPs queued up to claim authorship of various items on Sir Ron's list of 200 proposals. Britain could be on the brink of ending the biggest blight on its school system: the built-in bias against vocational education which has left us struggling far behind our main industrial competitors.

The problems are familiar: low take-up, high fall-out, poor standards and all overlaid with an educational alphabet soup which makes it impossible for employers to understand the qualifications which have been achieved. Of course some progress has been made. One third of 16-year-olds — three times the proportion of 30 years ago — now start A level courses but 30 per cent fail to complete or achieve a qualification. Vocational qualifications have multiplied but not only are the 100 plus award-making bodies unknown to many, 16,000 different qualifications available to the age-group make even

experts confused. Sir Ron should be embraced for his robust call to reduce the complexity, and the specialised vocabularies, and return to everyday language. As he notes, the very names (GNVQ, NVQ) seem "perversely selected to provide a barrier to memory and understanding".

Sir Ron sought to meet the needs of three crucial groups: disaffected 14-year-olds; the large number of non-academic children now staying on beyond 16; and post-16 high-flyers who currently are insufficiently stretched. Within schools, his separate academic and vocational tracks would both lead to higher education and allow pupils to select from both. The emphasis is on higher quality from both tracks. Sir Ron embraces the proposals of separate recent reviews of vocational qualifications to raise standards. More controversially for a tiny minority, he endorses the need to broaden A levels. It is now eight years since the Higinson Committee first demonstrated this need. No other country except Ghana pursues such a narrow focus. Higinson's plan was supported by universities, employers, and schools but rejected by Margaret Thatcher. Taking it off her shelf is long overdue. Sir Ron, master masseur, has produced the necessary political consensus. He can move on to his third review: higher education. Meanwhile, Britain has a chance to move purposefully to education targets set for the year 2000 — and already achieved by Germany and Japan.

## Oranges are not the only fruit

There's one sure winner from the phone wars: consumers

ORANGE, the mobile phone company launched on the stock market yesterday, has sprung from nothing to being valued at almost £3 billion in less than two years — surely a British all-comers record for wealth creation. Not bad for a company which lost £140 million last year. Awarding phone companies telephone-number valuations is a brave act of faith when the industry is experiencing unprecedented upheaval. There are now over 150 telephone operators in the UK and no one knows which of the new delivery systems will triumph in the next century let alone what companies will survive. Optical fibres are being run alongside railway tracks and wrapped around electricity cables to provide competition for BT. On present trends mobile phones will take 50 per cent of the market by 2000. Ionica is poised to launch a radio-based phone network which will smash BT's monopoly of the local loop (between home and

the local exchange) accompanied by price cuts of up to 40 per cent. It will be followed by a shoal of other radio-based operators trying to establish alternative national networks. Meanwhile, the technological glitches preventing the Internet from being a low-cost global phone network are being ironed out with unexpected speed, prompting giants like AT&T and BT to rethink their strategies. For consumers this must mean lower prices. Phone companies should accept in practice what they know in theory: that network economics means that an international call costs little more than a local one. In future they will have to make their profits from rentals, special services and more intensive use of the existing networks. If they don't the Internet will do it for them. It is only when the cost of telephoning anywhere in the world is uniformly cheap that the global village will have truly arrived.



Grand Last Chance Conservative Government Closing Down Sale. Everything must go to pay for Cow and Tax cuts

## Letters to the Editor

### Charitable look at cruelty

THERE has been no "turn of mind" in the RSPCA following any ruling by the Charity Commissioners. We have not been forced to tone down "many" (or indeed any) of our campaigns. (RSPCA rocked as Charity Commissioners order curbing the animal cruelty campaigns, March 27), although we did alter the emphasis of a campaign dealing with the conditions in which primates are kept in laboratories.

This was because the experiments being conducted on these chimps were of benefit to mankind and we are not allowed, under charity law, to ask for a ban on such experiments if there are no alternatives. This cuts both ways, though, as we are not allowed to campaign on issues such as hunting with hounds, where, if it is necessary to kill foxes that have become pests, for example, there are better alternatives such as shooting which cause less suffering.

The RSPCA works with the Chief Charity Commissioner, not against him. The Charity Commission has not changed its rules recently, although we regularly ask for guidance within which to work, and provides plenty of scope for all anti-cruelty campaigns.

Ronald F Kirkby, Chairman, RSPCA Council, RSPCA, Causeway, Horsham RH12 1HG.

THE legal position is well established by the courts. They have held that charities for the protection of animals are charitable in so far as such purposes are regarded as raising public morality by representing brutality and cruelty and thereby elevating the human race by stimulating compassion. This reflects the important point that there are circumstances in which the moral benefit to mankind arising from the prevention of suffering can be outweighed by some even greater benefit to man such as the advancement of medicine.

While it would be proper for a charity to seek to promote the raising of standards of animal care, subsequent slaughter of farm animals by promoting more humane farming methods, it would clearly be unacceptable to seek to frustrate essential medical research involving experimentation on animals if acceptable alternatives could be found. The position of the RSPCA in relation to animal-rights issues has been challenged. We have therefore had to raise with the RSPCA the question of the extent to which we can properly campaign on questions of this kind. We have had discussions with the RSPCA but still await its formal response.

During a recent period of 18 months we have, with the complete co-operation of the RSPCA, published its campaign literature. The view we

formed was that both the issues on which it campaigned and the nature of its campaign material were consistent with its charitable status.

R J Fries, Chief Cms, RSPCA Commissioner for England and Wales, 57/60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX.

SO, THE RSPCA must not campaign against activities which are considered to be of benefit to mankind. What benefit was there to the children and teachers of Langcliffe Primary School who saw the hounds of the Limesdale Hunt savagely kill a fox in the school playground earlier this month? Or, without going into details of diseases like salmonella and BSE, of what benefit have intensive farming methods been to the people of this country?

Would it not have been better to spend as well as to animals if the Charity Commissioners' rulings had been challenged? Instead, the RSPCA chairman, Ron Kirkby, has made an equally incomprehensible and defeatist statement that "human needs are paramount". Are the needs of blood-lust paramount or the need to make profit at the expense of animal suffering and human lives?

Margaret House, RSPCA Members' Watchdog, Kingsley Road, Horley, Surrey RH6 8HR.

## Open and shut

I WAS interested to see that the head archive of the Greater London Record Office claims to have introduced a new service last October to assist people seeking information from adoption files (Letters, March 26). The GLRO now has, she says, "a more open-access policy".

Through my own research and family recollections, I established that my brothers, twins Colin and Clive, were at an LCC nursery home called Hollyshaw in Tunbridge Wells when they were adopted in around 1949. I wrote to the GLRO on November 8 last year, asking whether any information on the home and its children was available.

On November 20 the GLRO replied saying that Hollyshaw was not opened as a children's home until 1955, and that consequently "it would appear to be unlikely that this is where your brothers were". I had to supply the address of the Kelly's Directory for Tunbridge Wells for 1948, clearly listing Hollyshaw as an LCC Residential Nursery School, before receiving the admission that not only were there records on the home, but that a file existed on my brothers' time there. However, since it related to their adoption, "we are unable to release information from it".

My brothers may not even know they have another biological family. Only they presently have the right to see their GLRO file (through a social worker). It seems doubly unfair to this sister that for a time the GLRO placed an additional barrier between her and her brothers by giving wrong information. Not what I would call an "open-access policy". Heather Martin (née Parker), 117a Dartmouth Road, London SE23 3FX.



## Archbishop's cardinal error

POLITICIANS of all parties were scrupulously careful not to make political capital out of the tragedy in Dunblane. It is a great pity that the Archbishop of Canterbury did not follow their example (The Archbishop makes Jerusalem look jolly, March 27). Instead, he attempts to make spiritual capital out of it, using the disaster as a peg on which to hang a sermon about absolute morality.

It seems to have forgotten the careful discussion about morality in the

writings of his predecessor, William Temple, who cautioned against a destructive individualism — what the present Archbishop dubs a "DIY personal morality" — but he does not fall into the opposite trap of asserting absolute moral laws. "I do not myself believe," he wrote, "that there is any rule of conduct, strictly so-called, that is of absolute obligation."

By Philip Crowe, 4 Sundorne, Overton-on-Dee, Wrexham, Clwyd LL13 0EB.

## A few pennies short of a pound

I WAS intrigued to see David Willetts purporting to examine a number of aspects of social security (Arena, March 26). Somewhat disingenuously, he describes Peter Lilley's approach as "to define categories of benefit recipient so that they get assistance which is well targeted without necessarily being means-tested". Mr Willetts seems not to have noticed that means-testing under this government has risen from 17 per cent of benefits expenditure in 1979 to 35 per cent in 1995, and that all Peter Lilley has done is to salami-slice benefit after benefit, hitting one vulnerable group after another. What is the job-seekers' allowance if not an extension of means-testing?

What is the massive growth in housing-benefit expenditure under this government if not a switch from housing investment to means-testing? What subsidy? Mr Willetts seems unaware of what his own Secretary of State is doing. Chris Smith MP, (Shadow Social Security Sec.) House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

## A recipe for the consumer to become a steak-holder

THE consumer-protection interest in food should not be in the hands of a ministry generally perceived as the farmer's voice in government. Ideally there should be an overlapping interest in producing exactly what the public wants. But when these interests diverge, or clash, safety of food is too fundamental to be left in doubt. Salmonella, additive or BSE — we all need to know that our and our children's well-being is paramount.

Today it is food. Tomorrow it could be water, medicine, railway safety or insurance scams. The argument for the separation of ministerial responsibility for the interests of the food producers from those of consumer protection must be equally valid for other areas of production and commerce. A junior minister, however dedicated, in the predominantly commercially oriented Board of Trade diminishes the consumer's importance — in the Consumer Society!

In the 1970s, I and others, convinced Harold Wilson of the merit of separation. For the first time in 1974, an independent Consumer Ministry was established. Rearguard defence by established departments frustrated the creation of a full-blown, heavyweight ministry. Trade would not relinquish consumer aspects of tourism; MAFF remained intact; the consumer side of Health remained immersed in an established department.

Now, while the public mood is conscious of the need, may I make a bid to convince my own party of the opportunity which exists? To transfer food safety to a quango would hardly seem appropriate when the need is for public accountability. Alone it would not make a viable department. But what a force for the consumer would be created if all departments were made to hand their consumer-protection roles to one ministry. The consumer would have an independent voice in Cabinet.

The regulators of all the utilities — gas, water, electricity, telecoms, rail — should come within its aegis. Add in competition policy and you have a ministry to speak for us, the consumers, a department to stand up to the industrial lobbies and their Whitehall mouth-pieces. The consumer would become a stakeholder in Cabinet government.

Alan Williams MP, (Minister of State in the first Department of Consumer Affairs, 1974-76), House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

THE British dedication to cheap food at all costs dates back not to 1945 as you suggest (Cheap food for thought, March 25) but to 1846, when the Corn Laws were repealed. Protecting the competitive position of British manufacturing was the name of the game, and support for this policy was not confined to any one political party. As late as the 1950s the Liberals campaigned on the slogan "Cheap Food for the Worker".

Continental Europeans, by contrast, have seldom believed cheapness to be a virtue where food is concerned. So when British determination to continue paying no more than a fair price for feed came into collision with the high-cost Common Agricultural Policy, corners were cut. We are now facing the consequences.

Lord Monson, House of Lords, London SW1A 0AA.

JOHN Gray correctly concludes that the real lesson from the BSE fiasco is that "we should be ready to err on the side of caution." (Nature bites back, March 26). This is the precautionary approach, by which action is taken as soon as there are grounds for concern rather than delaying indefinitely until there is absolute scientific proof.

BSE is not the only issue where government neglects the precautionary principle. Evidence is already mounting that hormone-disrupting chemicals are causing widespread damage from reduced sperm counts in human males to developmental failures in wildlife. Two significant hormone disruptors (dioxins and phthalates) are found in the "life cycle" of one plastic — PVC. The Government must act now to phase out PVC, we wait for scientific certainty, we'll wait until the mad cows come home.

Sarah J Burton, Campaign Director, Greenpeace UK, Canonbury Villas, London N1 2PN.

ANY other industry producing products potentially fatal to its consumers would be worried about how much they would have to pay to victims. But farmers expect us to compensate them — for adopting dodgy practices designed to boost profits. In what way is farming so different that it should not bear the same responsibility?

Daniel Dennis, 21 John Road House, Henry Jackson Road, London SW15 1DJ.

## A Country Diary

GLoucestershire: Every night is a brief and seasonal trade flourishes along the banks of the lower Severn below Gloucester. For reasons most often associated with the avoidance of tax liability the trade is not highly publicised. It is the annual eel catch and for a few brief weeks, the mass of young eels that have battled their way across the Atlantic from the Sargasso Sea are in the river. The fishery stations, with large holding tanks, in Gloucester and in the rural hinterland of the Vale of Severn open for business and, by night, the eel-catchers are on the banks in their favourite selected spots to reap the harvest of young eels — tiny, transparent creatures which make up a wriggling mass in the net. The licensed and approved methods of catching — with a rigid framed hand-bait net from either the river bank or from a moored boat. This year there have been allegations of trawling — that is fishing from a boat moving against the stream and thereby virtually vacuuming up the eelers in

the river. The river bank by night is not the place to be unless you are comfortable in the company of those who regularly augment their income by the eel-fishing. At worst you could be suspected of being a representative of the Inland Revenue and end up in the river along with the eels. Less harshly, it might be suggested that you take your night-time stroll elsewhere. You may be wondering what is the market for the harvest of this trade — Severn eels do not appear on the menu of local restaurants. Although enquiries are not encouraged, rumour has it that the big market, at up to 85p per kilo, is in continental Western Europe where the eelers have the reputation of being an aphrodisiac. Well, if you give any product that renown it is not difficult to sell, as the sad trade in the body parts of some threatened animal residents of the tropical rain forest confirms. In the league table of man's exploitation of the natural world, the Severn eel catch comes fairly low

COLIN LUCKEY







David Packard

# Computer giant in a garage

**T**HE monument to David Packard, the electronics engineer who has died aged 83, is a bronze plaque on the lawn of a pleasant but not opulent house in a leafy street in Palo Alto, California. The house was not his birthplace, but its small and shabby wooden garage is regarded as the genesis of Silicon Valley and the computer industry.



We weren't interested in money. In our first years we made 25 cents an hour — David Packard

It was here, in the 12-by-18ft building put up in 1955, that Packard and his friend Bill Hewlett began in the autumn of 1938 to tinker with their new invention, an electronic audio oscillator that Walt Disney later used to test sound equipment for his classical music cartoon, *Fantasia*. So powerful was the legend of Hewlett-Packard's origins that today in the computer industry, a failure is met not with "back to the drawing board" but to "the garage".

Packard, co-founder of the huge Hewlett-Packard electronics company, also invented a management style known as the "HP Way" that is still practised. It is informal but efficient, and includes such concepts as "management by walking around", in which executives roam the shop floor, and "open door" corridors meeting employees and seeking their ideas.

They would always spot Packard coming; he was 6ft 5in tall and walked with a purposeful stride, and although friendly, could be intimidating. He would issue severe reprimands to those

who had not done their homework. Once, during the 1960s, a young engineer showed him a cheaper metal for packaging delicate instruments. Packard took the proffered silver, twisted until it broke and on the floor walked off without a word.

He bestowed another legacy on Silicon Valley: conservatism. He served under President Nixon as his deputy secretary of defense during the Vietnam war from 1969-71, was a trustee of the conservative Hoover Institution in Cal-

ifornia, and served on the Trilateral Commission for eight years.

As one of the richest men in America, his last political act was a large contribution to two referenda in California that would have made it more difficult for people to claim damages from corporations. He did not live to see their failure announced yesterday after Tuesday's election.

Packard was born the son of a successful lawyer and high-school teacher in the town of Pueblo, Colorado, and despite the family's wishes for a law career, he obtained a master's degree in electrical engineering at Stanford. He studied under Professor Frederick Terman, who was concerned that so many of his high-achieving students were "back East" to make their living. The professor, now regarded as the father of the US electronics industry, wanted them to form their own companies on an industrial site the university owned.

But first was their sojourn at 387 Addison Avenue, Palo Alto, where Packard lived in the house with his young wife Lucille (she died in 1987), and Hewlett slept in a cottage at the back.

They formed their partnership on New Year's day 1939 with just \$539 in capital, and tossed a coin to decide in what order to put their names. "We weren't interested in making money,"

Packard recalled later, "but if you couldn't get a job, you made one for yourself. Our first several years we made only 25 cents an hour."

However, in the first year they had a profit of \$1,539 on sales of "inventions to order" of \$6,269. Their company, incorporated in 1947, became a leading supplier of electronic instruments and equipment that eventually led the partners into the burgeoning field of computers. They built their first model, the HP-2116A, in 1948, but made more money on the popular electronic calculator they introduced in the early 1970s.

Today Hewlett-Packard is the second largest computer company in the United States, with sales of \$31.5 billion annually and 100,000 employees. Recently it has become the leading maker of laser printers.

As the company grew, the two partners worked out a shared management in which Hewlett remained the technical man, and Packard ran day-to-day business. It was here that he developed the management ideas that are still widely used in Silicon Valley. They served as a model for the founders of Apple Computer Inc, and top executives at companies including Silicon Graphics and Tandem are former employees installed in the HP Way.

Packard wrote down his management beliefs when the company went public in 1957. It scorns a strict hierarchy but encourages individual



Inventing Silicon Valley... Packard (seated) and Bill Hewlett at work in their Palo Alto garage in 1939

creativity while urging a "company culture" of respect and trust. Packard believed in dispersing power and would split up divisions after they reached 1,500 employees. Executives at HP had no limousines or private dining rooms, and Packard did away with plush offices, installing cubicles without doors instead, while encouraging engineers to leave their work

out so others could come by and tinker or offer ideas.

Forbes magazine estimated Packard's personal fortune at \$3.7 billion, but he lived sparsely and did not subscribe to the current "downstating" mania in which hundreds of thousands of Americans from late operators to senior executives have lost their jobs. Bill Gates, the billionaire boss of Microsoft, paid tribute

to Packard, crediting him with overcoming the huge changes in Silicon Valley without mass sackings.

"His mentality of mutual respect and treating people decently, combined with the understanding of what it takes to foster innovation, still inspires everyone who tries to make things happen in Silicon Valley," said Robert Herwick, president of a

capital management company in San Francisco.

Packard stepped down from active management in 1978 and retired as chairman in 1983.

Christopher Reed

David Packard, electronic engineer and businessman, born September 7, 1912; died March 26, 1996

Laurie Deniz

## Melodic master of guitar

**G**UITARIST Laurie Deniz, who has died aged 71, made his London debut in an African nightclub, dusting with a fellow Welshman who played jazz on accordion. Like many British musicians awaiting call-up, they provided wartime entertainment for the African-American servicemen who flooded into Soho. Pianist Clarrie Wears, a pre-war settler from Trinidad, led the house band at Babala, and Wears's Colonial Peoples Club in Frith Street, Deniz and Tony Chadgeadakis provided the cabaret. The mere physical presence of black musicians such as Deniz and Wears were welcome reminders of home for soldiers marginalised by segregationist policies from the functions where Major Glenn Miller held sway.

To Deniz, who had grown up in Cardiff's Tiger Bay, "League of Nations" atmosphere, his audience's racial component was unimportant. The youngest of three brothers who each made a mark on British jazz history, he had the advantage that his parents could afford piano lessons when his turn came. Frank, 12 years older and Joe, 11 years his senior were selling news-

papers on the Cardiff streets when Laurie began to listen to their few jazz records.

Their father, a Portuguese-speaking Cape Verde seaman, gave him a ukulele and a friend played him Segovia recordings but it was not until he heard Django Reinhardt that he considered playing. His first guitar came from Frank's future wife, Clara. It was from local guitar hero Victor Parker, another "Bute-town Black" with London experience, that he gained early insights.

At 12 he joined the Harlem Pages, a troupe of Cardiff boys feeding white fascination for black entertainers. For two years they toured the Moss Empires circuit, dancing, singing and playing banjo-ukuleles. Sleeping three to a bed, they snatched their schooling where they could; at 14 Deniz began manual work, graduating to driving a crane. He practised guitar chords with Chadgeadakis who played "very good jazz accordion". Together they took over the local pub and party circuit, playing calypso and dance music.

A year after Deniz made his Soho debut he switched to the electric guitar, initially playing it without a plectrum.

"Dives" abounded in wartime: playing for spivs who diluted whisky with meths, he watched punters throw up on this lethal cocktail. At American army camp dances he saw "now segregation worked: black troops were banned from mixing with women."

His ability took him to Mayfair's Latin-American bands; there, interspersed with brief army service, he played with Deniz Walton, Santiago Lopez and Marino Barretta. With violinist Stéphane Grappelli, he played an Epiphone Zenith rhythm guitar, his brother Joe taking electric solos.

It was not until Denman Street's famous Caribbean Club opened that Deniz began playing jazz. He worked with Clarrie Wears until his brother Frank took over the house band, thereby forming the nucleus of the influential Caribbean Trio. When Trinidadian Leuderic Caton, the most respected guitarist of the day, replaced Frank, it was Laurie he encouraged and put in to deputise.

In 1947 drummer Ray Ellington formed his own quartet from the trio: two years later, when Caton was being replaced by Laurie's stage-suit and asked him to take his place. Presentation was all-impor-



Laurie Deniz... a Goon Show regular PHOTOGRAPH: VAL WILMER

tant to Ellington, who modelled the quartet on Nat "King" Cole, whom they saw at the Palladium: after spending a night with Cole's guitarist Irving Ashby, "playing and talking guitar" Deniz felt at home with the English mix of personality and jazz. He brought beautiful melodic lines to the quartet; bassist Coleridge Goode said he was "the right person for the kind of music we were doing". Listening years later to records such as "Come Fly With Me", Deniz claimed himself surprised at the quality of his playing.

While proto rock 'n' rollers were still learning the "three-chord trick", Deniz introduced the electric guitar into the national consciousness through the quartet's tours and their weekly Goon Show

radio appearances. Acknowledged as one of his generation's finest guitarists, illness forced him out and into the garage business in 1953. He lost his money, and rejoined his brothers in Hermandos, a band of kings and chiefs. His arranging skills, Laurie was "50 per cent of the band", but Latin music lost popularity during the 1960s.

Living in west London, Deniz made pub appearances into the 1970s, but his disabilities returned and he retired from the music he loved. He is survived by his elder brother Frank and two sons, one of whom, Martin, is a musician.

Val Wilmer

Laurence Richard Deniz, jazz guitarist, born August 17, 1924; died February 24, 1996

Lady Victoria Opoku-Ware

## Woman behind a king

**L**ADY Victoria, wife of Otumfuo Opoku-Ware II, Asantehene (King of Asante), has died aged 66. She was for many years an important figure in Ghanaian life. Kings, selected from a number of royal houses, were crowned in the presence of her husband and the strength of his will she brought to assisting him in his duties as leader of the Asante nation.

The Asante (or the Ashanti as they were known during colonial times) are the most numerous and powerful of the tribal groups in Ghana. The role of Asantehene is of great importance and only men of highest ability are chosen to lead their people. Opoku-Ware II has occupied the Golden Stool of Asante, the enduring symbol of the kingdom, since 1970 — the third Asantehene this century.

Inheritance in Asante is traced through females, and kings, selected from a number of potential candidates, owe their position to their maternal line. Traditionally, the most important women in the Asante political system were the queen mothers, the maternal aunts of kings and chiefs. Kings' wives occupied a far less prominent position and were not expected to play any great part in royal public affairs. However, Lady Victoria's resilient character and determination to support her husband ensured a new and larger role.

Born in Kumasi, the Asante capital, she came from a prominent Asante family, with strong connections to the royal court. Educated at Wesley Girls School, Cape Coast, she retained a strong Christian faith and a deep interest in Methodist affairs. At the age of 13 she was identified as a suitable wife for the then barrister, Matthew Poku, already regarded by many as the outstanding candidate for the Golden Stool.



Lady Victoria... resilient

By the time the couple married in 1945, Lady Victoria had already taken on many of the duties required of the wife of an eminent public figure in Ghana. On her husband's accession she assumed quasi-diplomatic and political duties, as well as serving as a hostess for her husband and acting as an intermediary for petitioners.

She also accompanied him on overseas visits; those involved in the king's visits to London and New York in connection with the Asante Kingdom of Gold exhibition recall her hard work to ensure that everything was done to the highest possible standard.

The Asantehene's silver jubilee was celebrated in Kumasi last August. Many Asante returned home to take part in the celebrations and to demonstrate their allegiance to the culminating festival was organised on a traditional pattern with chief queen mothers and their entourages forming its main elements. Lady Victoria was also accorded a prominent place and was greeted with enthusiasm by the vast crowd. Despite her age, she had worked tirelessly to help her husband through the complex and ex-

hausting activities of the jubilee year and also to make many non-Ghanaian visitors welcome.

She bore the king a son and two daughters and took great delight in her 18 grand children. Although public duties took up much of her time and energy (she was involved in many charitable organisations) her great pleasure lay in the private side of her family's life. Those who were fortunate to know her away from more formal occasions can testify to her great kindness and her sense of humour.

Malcolm McLeod

Lady Victoria Opoku-Ware, born April 22, 1929; died March 6, 1996

### Death Notices

JORDAN, Susanna at Bromley, Kent on the 21st March 1996. Widow of the late young son of Thomas and Catherine Jordan. Dear brother of John, Alan, Raymond, Eric, Gordon. Buried by rites of Holy Church R.P. reception and visit at St James' Church, Colchester. Burial on Friday at 4.30pm. Reception at St James' Church, Colchester on Saturday at 11.00am. Inquiries to Mrs A. G. Alexander, 4 Dry, 1 Seal Road, Bengeo, Herts, SG12 7ND.

WILLIAMS, E. Jane. On March 23rd aged 79 after a long illness. Wife of the late Frank, mother-in-law of Maudie and Alison (Loraine), grandmother of Anna and Cathy. Family meeting for drinks for cremation at Bacon Crematorium, Chester, on Monday April 1st at 2.30pm. Inquiries to Mrs J. Williams, 111, The Quadrant, Chester, Cheshire, CH1 1JH.

QUICK, JAMES died 28th March 1995 remembered with love and longing. Sylvia.

### In Memoriam

BERNARD, Wake up snugly Poole boy, don't get in a fit, there's plenty of work for you. To place your announcement telephone 0171 717 4267. Fax 0171 717 4126.

### Birthdays

BEWICK, Wake up snugly Poole boy, don't get in a fit, there's plenty of work for you. To place your announcement telephone 0171 717 4267. Fax 0171 717 4126.

Birthdays

Gordon Adam, Labour MEP, 62; Rosemary Ashe, soprano, 43; Sir Dirk Bogarde, actor and author, 75; George Bruce, portrait and landscape painter, 66; Steve Bull, footballer, 31; Prof Lord (John) Butterfield, former Master, Downing College, Cambridge, 78; Sir Robert Clarke, chairman, Thames Water, 67; Richard Eyre, artistic director, National Theatre, 53; Robert Harris, actor, 36; Prof Peter Hen-

nessy, writer, journalist, historian, 49; Peter Howell, principal, London University, 60; Nasser Hussain, cricketer, 38; Lord Hinchinbrooke of Lullington QC, former crown court recorder, 81; Queen Ingrid of Denmark, 86; Lord (Frank) Judd, former director, Oxfam, 61; Neil Kinnoch, EC Transport Commissioner, 54; Kylie Minogue, singer and actress, 28; Tete Montalieu, Catalan jazz pianist, 68; Martin Neary, organist and

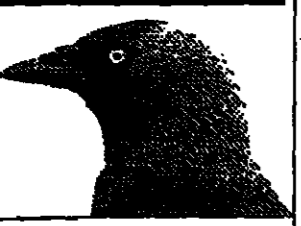
master of choristers, Westminster Abbey, 56; Michael Parkinson, broadcaster, 61; Frances Partridge, Bloomsbury diarist, 96; Prof Michael Rawlins, clinical pharmacologist, 55; Dr Derek Roberts, provost, University College, London, 64; Prof Merton Sandler, chemical pathologist, 70; Jack Stammers, cricketer, 88; Lord Strathairn, 54; Peter Willmott-Sitwell, banker, former chairman, S G Warburg, 61.

Another Day

March 28, 1814: This night got into my new apartments, rented of Lord Althorpe, on a lease of seven years. Spacious, and room for my books and papers... The last few days, or whole week have been very abstemious, regular in exercise, and yet very unwell. Yesterday, dined tête-à-tête at the Cocoa with Scrope Davies... between us one bottle of champagne and six bottles of claret, neither of which wines ever affect me.

Offered to take Scrope home in my carriage; but he was tipsy and pious, and I was obliged to leave him on his knees praying to I know not what purpose or god. No headache, nor sickness, that night nor today. Got up, if anything, earlier than usual — spurred with Jackson ad sudorem and have been much better in health than for many days. Byron's Letters & Journals, vol 4, Wedlock's the Devil (John Murray, 1975).

Jackdaw



The lost Walt

FIFTY YEARS after finding no Whitman in my high school literature text, I am interviewed by a major publisher for the job of writing the poetry sections in a ninth-grade literature text. In the initial interview, I ask: "Is Whitman gay in this book or not?" The nice lady editor says: "Not in the ninth grade." I say: "What grade?" She says: "Maybe the twelfth. But not before. Definitely not before."

I am reminded... of the French textbook in which I was told to shut up and drop both past participle agreement and reflexive verbs and

the subjunctive. And of the Spanish textbook in which, over my strenuous objections, Cuba did not appear on the map of the Spanish-speaking world. Not a trace of Cuba. Not even a hole in the ocean. Cuba — the new Atlantis. Not to mention... the sixth-grade history book that featured a full-colour drawing of beaming Indians welcoming benign white train-passengers to the Old West; or the high-school science text where a close-up photo of the rampant, curving pistils of a tulip blossom got deleted for being "too suggestive".

I look up Whitman in the twelfth grade. He is not gay. In fact, nobody is gay in any grade. On the other hand, mysteriously, everybody seems to have colour. This is different from the 1940s, when nobody had colour... But now even white people seem to have colour — or pretend to. Curious ethical beige and pinks as if race (does) not exist. As if ordinary folks automatically and fully empathise with and understand the other. Unless, of course, they are gay. In which case, like Cuba, the

subjunctive, and scientific fact, they don't exist... Moreover, nobody in any grade — author or character — is a mean drunk. And absolutely nobody has sex. And utterly nobody kills themselves. And categorically nobody resists authority. Half the poets printed in this textbook were sex-crazed, state-and-cop-hating Indians and crackheads who went insane or poisoned, hanged, and shot themselves and their neighbours out of despair for justice and humanity; and the titles and textbooks exactly like these. I decide to write interesting bios for these poets. My bios are too interesting, they are censored.

Poet and playwright Carl Morse on "the dangers of real life in the modern school textbook" in *Index On Censorship*.

### Course notes

FICTION: Imaginative literary, oral or visual works representing invented, rather than actual persons, places and events.

GRAMMAR: The means by which the different components of language can be put together in groups of sounds and written or visual symbols so that ideas, feelings and images can be communicated; what one knows about the structure and use of one's own language that leads to its creative and communicative use.

LISTENING: Attending to communication by any means; includes listening to vocal speech, watching signals or using communication aids.

READING: The complex, recursive process through which we make meaning from texts, using semantics; syntax; visual, aural and tactile cues; context, and prior knowledge.

SPEAKING: The act of communication through such means as vocalisation, signing or using communication aids such as voice synthesizers.

SPELLING: The process of representing language by means of a writing system or orthography.

STANDARDS FOR THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS, outlining what school students should learn, released by America's National Council of Teachers of English and reprinted in the *New York Times*.

### Country beat

LIKE MANY DJs at the cutting edge of drum 'n' bass, DJ S.P.A.M. was drawn to petty crime throughout his teens. "Me and the South Central Ipswich posse, we did it all, man," he chuckles. "Sometimes we would steal shopping trolleys from the local Netto and push them around town — often for miles — before the store assistants would catch us."

He finally found a way out of crime by DJ-ing the rave scene, where he gained notoriety for dropping heavy country and skiffle tracks into high-energy mixes. "I was playing at a rave near Felixstowe in 1990, and in the middle of this gabba set I dropped a few bars of Lonnie Donegan's Twenty Flight Rock. The response was incredible — the whole dance-floor cleared. Incredible. The next time I tried it, it was

even better. The promoter came up to me and said, 'Here's your 20 quid. Now get out of here before someone kicks your head in.' But I persisted and at the third attempt someone did kick my head in. Amazing..."

After being barred from every techno venue in East Anglia, he eventually gained a residency at Club Filth in St Margaret's Scout Hut, Dunstable, one of the more progressive venues on the hardcore circuit, where he now surfs the zeitgeist of eclectic breakbeat culture with his inimitable brand of country hardstep... [He] is insistent about his role in the creation of drum 'n' bass. "You read all these jungle retrospectives and it's all 'Rebel MC this' and 'Shot Up And Dance that' but what these cats don't tell you is that I was there in the vanguard of hardstep, man. I was sitting in on the decks at this Rotary Club Coffee Morning in Bedfordshire when I played this Kenny Rogers track on my Denonette and accidentally turned it up to 78 rpm. It was mad."

John Lewis grapples with the modern music phenomenon that is DJ S.P.A.M. for the dance magazine Wax.

### Wax report

Q. AS A CORRESPONDENT FOR CBS, you have a busy schedule. How do you fit in exercise? A. What many people don't realise is that exercise is the reward and not the punishment. Every day I do at least

90 minutes of aerobic exercise and 30 minutes of weights. I also do mountain-bike racing and cross-country skiing, and a little downhill. Q. How do you work out every day when you're on assignment? A. I find a way. In the Gulf War I would be rollerblading down the street and a Scud would come in and I would dive into the middle of a mosque. Or I'll blade in the UN compound. When I was in Somalia we would go to the grocery with these big armed convoys. So I hire big trucks full of gunmen, one in front and one in back, with me in the middle, rollerblading through the streets. Bob Arnot of CBS news interviewed in Vermont Sports Today, reprinted in *Harpers*.

Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk. Fax 0171-713 4366, Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Dan Gjalster



Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
Fax: 0171-833-4456

# Finance Guardian

## Axe swings at United Utilities and Pilkington as car-maker wins £71m aid for factory



Game of two halves... Michael Heseltine at Pilkingtons, where jobs are to go, in a downsized Jaguar, where jobs are coming PHOTOGRAPH DENIS THORPE

# North-west jobs blow

Martyn Halsall and Ian King

**M**ORE than 2,000 jobs are expected to be axed today at United Utilities, the combined electricity and water group in North-west England, in the second heavy blow to the region in 24 hours. Rumours of the new wave of job cuts swept the North-west as it was digesting news from the St Helens-based glass-maker Pilkington that it was to cut 1,900 staff worldwide in a move which will wipe £185 million off annual profits.

Evidence that the jobs shake-out from big business is continuing unabated comes only days before the G7 jobs summit in Lille called to discuss ways to staunch the worsening unemployment in developed countries. United Utilities — which was formed last October from the £1.8 billion takeover of Norweb by North West Water and employs around 13,000 — would last night only confirm it will today make an announcement "giving an update" on the integration of the two companies.

There was speculation in the City that the announcement would provide details of a far-reaching restructuring of the business which could even include the abandonment of high street retailing. The announcement will be the first chance for group, headed by Sir Desmond Pither, to spell out how cost savings he claimed would follow from the creation of the first super utility will be achieved. Unions have warned that up to 5,000 jobs could eventually be lost.

First news is expected to come through an announcement to the Stock Exchange. "We think it will hit the City before it hits the employees and employees will wake up tomorrow morning to see if they've got a job or not," said one union source. While some union leaders yesterday said the possible redundancy of almost one in six of the company's workforce was "speculation", one felt the figure could be even higher.

Brian Staples, NWW's chief executive, told the egm which approved the Norweb takeover that job losses would follow even though both companies had already cut jobs savagely since privatisation. Sweeping job loss fears coincided with the first day of industrial action by thousands of workers protesting against union derecognition by Vertec. United Utilities' subsidiary support facilities management company. One union leader said yesterday that the majority of his members had signed personal contracts — which replace collective bargaining — "under duress" and were participating in protest action. Pilkington said it was cutting jobs to reduce overheads, improve efficiency and strengthen its competitive position. Chief executive Roger

## Europe upholds aid to Jaguar

Chris Barrie and Julie Wolf

**U**P TO 6,000 jobs will be created at Jaguar and its suppliers following the European Commission's decision yesterday to clear Government aid worth £71.3 million for the car company's new factory in Birmingham. Welcoming the Commission's decision, after 10 months of scrutiny, to clear the £71.3 million aid package originally sought, chairman Nick Scheele said the factory and the car to be built there, the X200 saloon, would "transform Jaguar as a business". With production due to start in three years, sales would double to more than 80,000 a year. The complex aid package put together while Michael Heseltine was Trade and Industry secretary was intended to prevent Ford Jaguar's parent, locating the plant in the US. Yesterday's approval follows months of wrangling over the scale of direct aid, in the form of a grant, and associated help with training and infrastructure support.

## Notebook

### Tories see upside of downsizing



Edited by Alex Brummer

**I**T IS perhaps fortunate that the UK economy is still growing in the 2 per cent to 2.5 per cent range, otherwise the Government might be facing an unemployment problem to go with its other economic difficulties. The rationalisation and downsizing which distinguishes this upswing in the business cycle shows no sign of easing. Pilkington is the latest company to take a hit with the announcement that it is to axe 1,900 jobs. Later today it is expected that United Utilities, the combination of North-West Water and Norweb, will be making 2,000 more of its staff redundant. Earlier this week Barclays Bank — where chief executive Martin Taylor has just enjoyed a 13 per cent increase in total remuneration — let go another 1,000 of its employees.

The report paints a picture of a world where both the risks involved and their time spans are routinely underestimated. A world, too, where banks, whose exposures can also dwarf their capital bases, may not fully understand the mechanism through which deals are settled. Banks are also seen as conducting business in the comfortable — but mistaken — view that supervisors will never close down a big player during the trading day because of the disruption it would cause. Commercial bankers might argue that the current system is a product of judgement, rather than ignorance. The BIS report would suggest central bankers are unlikely to be impressed by such a response. This is worrying. In the past, banks have sometimes been undone by a combination of political encouragement and banking fashion, as in the case of Latin America. Or, they might struggle to come to terms with the implications of sophisticated products like derivatives. Neither applies to currency trading. Their risk appears to have arisen from a failure to appreciate the consequences of the explosive growth in the stock exchange, which in the assessment is the key banking skill. It is, after all, supposed to be what separates capitalist commercial banking from the mere credit shuffling of centrally planned economies.

## 'Cleaning house' bites into Apple

Mark Tran in New York

**A**PPLI Computer expects to lose about \$700 million (\$460 million) for the second quarter, far exceeding its previous record of \$188 million in mid-1993. Chief executive Gilbert Amelio, who took charge last month of the struggling company, attributed the losses to falling revenues, lower shipments, inventory write-offs and restructuring charges. The red ink in the quarter that sealed the fate of Mr Amelio's predecessor, Michael Spindler. Wall Street took Apple's announcement in its stride with the shares slightly up from \$24. Analysts called the write-offs typical in a change of regime, citing the precedent of IBM when Louis Gerstner took over from John Akers. "Amelio is cleaning house, clearing out inventory and he is doing it quicker than expected," said Megan Robertson, analyst at Smith Barney. "People feel that he can reinvigorate the organisation."

Mr Amelio has given himself 100 days to take stock of the company that symbolised the computer revolution before losing it through indecisive management. He is due to unveil his vision for Apple in May. Apple has already taken some steps to ensure that it will not be left behind by companies like Microsoft and Netscape as they position themselves on the Internet. One of Mr Amelio's first steps was to appoint chief scientist Larry Tesler as vice president for Internet strategy. Mr Tesler's job is to weave together promising products like Open Doc (document software), CyberDog (browser software) and Pippin (game device) into a coherent strategy. Mr Amelio expressed optimism about his ability to turn Apple around. "I'm confident at this point that I know what the problems are and that they are fixable." Strategic and operating plans now being developed would help the company build on its fundamental strengths and allow it to fulfil its long-term potential.

## Bankers risking forex mayhem

Mark Millner

**C**ENTRAL bankers are calling for an overhaul of the way banks settle foreign exchange deals because of the potentially huge risks to the world's financial system posed by present arrangements. Global currency dealing has ballooned to more than \$1.2 trillion (\$800 billion) a day but a Bank for International Settlements survey of 80 top banks has uncovered "a failure to measure and manage exposures". The BIS, founded to promote co-operation between central banks, has given com-

mercial banks two years in which to bring down their exposure on currency trading, though it has not yet said what will happen if they fail to comply. The risk in foreign exchange deals is that a bank will deliver the currency it has sold but will not receive the currency it bought in exchange — which would mean it losing the entire principal sum involved in the deal. The BIS said: "It is therefore appropriate that central banks should be concerned that the settlement arrangements... should be structured so as to minimise the systemic risk — the risk that the failure of one market participant to meet its (foreign exchange) settlement or other obligations when due may cause significant liquidity or credit problems for other participants, and so may threaten the stability of financial markets."

Such is the size of the foreign exchange market that the failure of even a single counterparty to settle its obligations can exceed a bank's total capital, according to the BIS. In its report, published last night, the BIS is sharply critical of banks' approach to the problem. Commercial banks often fail to understand that, instead of the deals being settled during the trading

day, their exposure often runs for longer than they believe and the amount at risk is greater than they expect. Over the next two years the BIS will be looking to see that commercial banks bring in measures to quantify their forex exposure properly, apply appropriate credit controls and reduce excessive settlement exposures. "We are asking them to recognise settlement risk for what it is and to bring it down," said William McDonough, president of the New York Federal Reserve and chairman of the Group of 10 central banks' committee on payment and settlement systems.

## Drug firms 'cheated shops'

Mark Tran in New York

**A**CCUSATIONS that some of the world's biggest drug companies colluded to overcharge independent pharmacies are being investigated by the Federal Trade Commission. Glaxo Wellcome, Smith-Kline Beecham, Eli Lilly, Pfizer and Sandoz are among 22 companies being investigated. The FTC inquiry will focus on whether companies engaged in "unlawful concerted activities to raise, fix, maintain or stabilise prices". In February, the drug companies agreed to settle a class action lawsuit by paying \$405 million (\$289 million) to the pharmacists.

Leo Denlea, chairman and chief executive of BAT's US insurance arm Farmers, saw his total remuneration package rise by nearly 86 per cent to £1.5 million. Most of the increase — £790,191 — related to performance pay and a deferred bonus. Mr Denlea's basic salary was £499,049 and his pensions contribution was £243,901. A BAT spokesman said that executive salaries were higher in the US than the UK and added that Farmers had achieved an 11 per cent profit rise last year. He also said that

## Rises renew pay row

**A**NGER greets fresh set of big increases in boardroom remuneration, says Pauline Springett

**F**RESH row over boardroom pay erupted yesterday following the disclosure of huge executive pay rises at BAT Industries and Barclays Bank. Leo Denlea, chairman and chief executive of BAT's US insurance arm Farmers, saw his total remuneration package rise by nearly 86 per cent to £1.5 million. Most of the increase — £790,191 — related to performance pay and a deferred bonus. Mr Denlea's basic salary was £499,049 and his pensions contribution was £243,901. A BAT spokesman said that executive salaries were higher in the US than the UK and added that Farmers had achieved an 11 per cent profit rise last year. He also said that

the lowest incomes are losing out while those at the top award themselves fat pay rises. Earlier this week Barclays announced another 1000 job cuts. Mr Taylor was not the highest paid Barclays director. That distinction went to David Band, managing director of the bank's investment banking arm BZW. Mr Band's total remuneration package was £798,000, with £545,000 of this in salary and bonus and £253,000 in the form of the executive share award. Separately, it emerged that Alain Soulas, chief executive of Arjo Wiggins, was leaving the company with a pay-off of around £1.5 million. Mr Soulas, who is quitting the Anglo-French paper company "by mutual agreement", is in line for a payment of two years' salary, understood to be around £800,000, plus stock options worth £400,000. Earlier this month the company reported a plunge in 1995 profits to £72 million from £217 million. Philippe Beylier will be group managing director.

## Treasury is blamed for 1p on stamps

**T**HE Post Office was forced to break a 2½-year price freeze yesterday when it announced a 1p rise in first and second class postage rates to meet huge new demands for cash from the Treasury, writes Simon Beazley.

First class stamps will rise to 26p and second class stamps to 20p. The prices have yet to be sanctioned by the official watchdog — the Post Office Users' National Council — but are expected to take effect from July 1. Postal charges have been frozen since November 1993 and the Post Office said the increases were being introduced "with great reluctance" but "the Treasury's cash demand on the Post Office rose steeply in last November's Budget and amounts to £925 million over the next three financial years". This nearly equals the total contribution demanded by the Government for the past 10 years. Parcelforce is to raise domestic prices by an average of 3 per cent from April 15 — the first rise in 18 months. International prices will also rise.

## Granny to rescue

**B**OOMING bond sales help reduce swollen PSBR, says Larry Elliott

**B**RIITAIN'S grannies and grandads are riding to the rescue of the Government as it attempts to finance the unexpected surge in borrowing this year, it emerged yesterday. Sales of so-called "granny bonds" have soared since changes made in last November's Budget and are offsetting the deterioration in the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement over the recent months. Economic Secretary to the Treasury, Angela Knight, said that reducing the qualifying age for pensioner bonds from 65 to 60 and increasing the amount that can be invested in any one issue from £20,000 to £50,000 had led to a huge increase in National Savings. Recycled Tessa are thought to be only partly responsible for this boost. National Savings are now forecast to raise some

£5 billion this year, compared to only £3 billion at the time of the Budget. This windfall will help to compensate for a higher PSBR, now set to be around £31.32 billion in 1995-96 against the £29 billion pencilled in last November. The authorities hope for a similar powerful performance in the coming financial year, when an increase in the number of gilts auctions has been announced to cover the Government's financing requirements. Mrs Knight said there would be 11 auctions, including three dual auctions, in 1996-97 against nine this year. Single auctions will take place on Wednesdays and involve the sale of £2.3 billion of debt. Dual auctions, new to Britain, will involve selling £3.4 billion of gilts — split between a Tuesday and a Thursday so that the Bank of England can offer a mix of long and short term debt. Yesterday's auction of £3 billion 7 per cent Treasury stock was covered by bids 2.64 times despite continuing fears about the budgetary impact of BSE.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.90	France 7.45	Italy 2.345	Singapore 2.10
Austria 15.25	Germany 2.1950	Malta 0.54	South Africa 5.82
Belgium 44.80	Greece 362.00	Netherlands 2.46	Spain 183.25
Canada 2.0125	Hong Kong 11.56	New Zealand 2.19	Sweden 9.39
Cyprus 0.6575	India 51.67	Norway 0.56	Switzerland 1.78
Denmark 8.47	Ireland 0.8500	Portugal 228.50	Turkey 99.300
Finland 6.97	Israel 4.74	Saudi Arabia 5.06	USA 1.4850

Sourced by NatWest Bank including Indian rupee and South African Rand



News in brief

**Bid battle for huge nickel field**

THE world's largest nickel mining company, Toronto-based Inco, has launched a \$4.5 billion Canadian dollars (£2.17 billion) takeover bid for Diamond Fields Resources Inc. owner of a vast nickel field in Labrador.

Inco's bid pits it against arch rival, Falconbridge, which is also trying to buy Diamond Fields and with it, control of what is believed to be one of the world's largest nickel deposits. No nickel has yet been extracted from the Voisey's Bay find in the frozen reaches of Labrador but the battle for ownership has been going on for nearly a year.

Inco's latest bid is \$43.50 a share and a seat on the board for Diamond Fields chairman Robert Friedland. To pay for it, Inco would boost its annual nickel production at Voisey's Bay to 277 million lbs, at least twice what the company proposed a year ago. — *Claire Trevena in Toronto*

**Phillips hot up chips output**

PHILIPS is to invest 800 million guilders (£316 million) to increase microchip production at one of its Dutch plants within the next two years. Yesterday's announcement came just two days after the company warned lower-than-expected growth in semi-conductors would lead to a "substantial drop" in profit in the first three months.

The investment decision was based on long-term growth forecasts, said Doug Dunn, head of Philips' semiconductor division and vice-president of Global Semiconductor Sales. Global semiconductor sales are projected to double to about \$21.7 billion in the year 2000, according to the research company Datagust.

Phillips has a global market share of about 8 per cent in the chip market and analysts expect its share to increase. Last year, global semiconductor sales rose about 40 per cent. Philips expects a "more manageable growth of between 15 and 25 per cent" this year. — *Bloomberg*

**Press group profits rise**

ACQUISITIONS have helped independent newspapers, the publishing flagship of Irish tycoon Tony O'Reilly's empire, lift full year pre-tax profits by 35 per cent to £59 million.

During the period, Independent snapped up a 45 per cent stake in Wilson & Horton, publisher of New Zealand's biggest-selling newspaper, increased its stake in South African-based Argus Newspapers to 60 per cent, and topped up its holding in Newspaper Publishing — publisher of the Independent and the Independent on Sunday — to 43.3 per cent.

Announcing the figures, chief executive Liam Healy said Independent expected further growth this year, adding that he thought newspaper prices have now peaked. Mr Healy also stressed that Independent remained fully committed to its overseas investments. — *Ian King*

**Homes slump hits Caradon**

CARADON, the struggling building materials group which owns Everest double glazing and Mira showers, yesterday announced a collapse in full year pre-tax profits from £201.3 million to £114.3 million. Caradon, which last year was dumped out of the FTSE 100 and shed over 1,600 jobs across its world-wide activities, said it expected to make further job cuts during 1996.

Chief executive Peter Jansen blamed the continued weakness of the housing market, along with rising raw material prices. He did not expect any real recovery in the UK housing market during the first half of 1996, while in Germany, where Caradon controls doors and windows group Weru, he thought it was likely to get worse. — *Ian King*

**Dobson joins bank board**

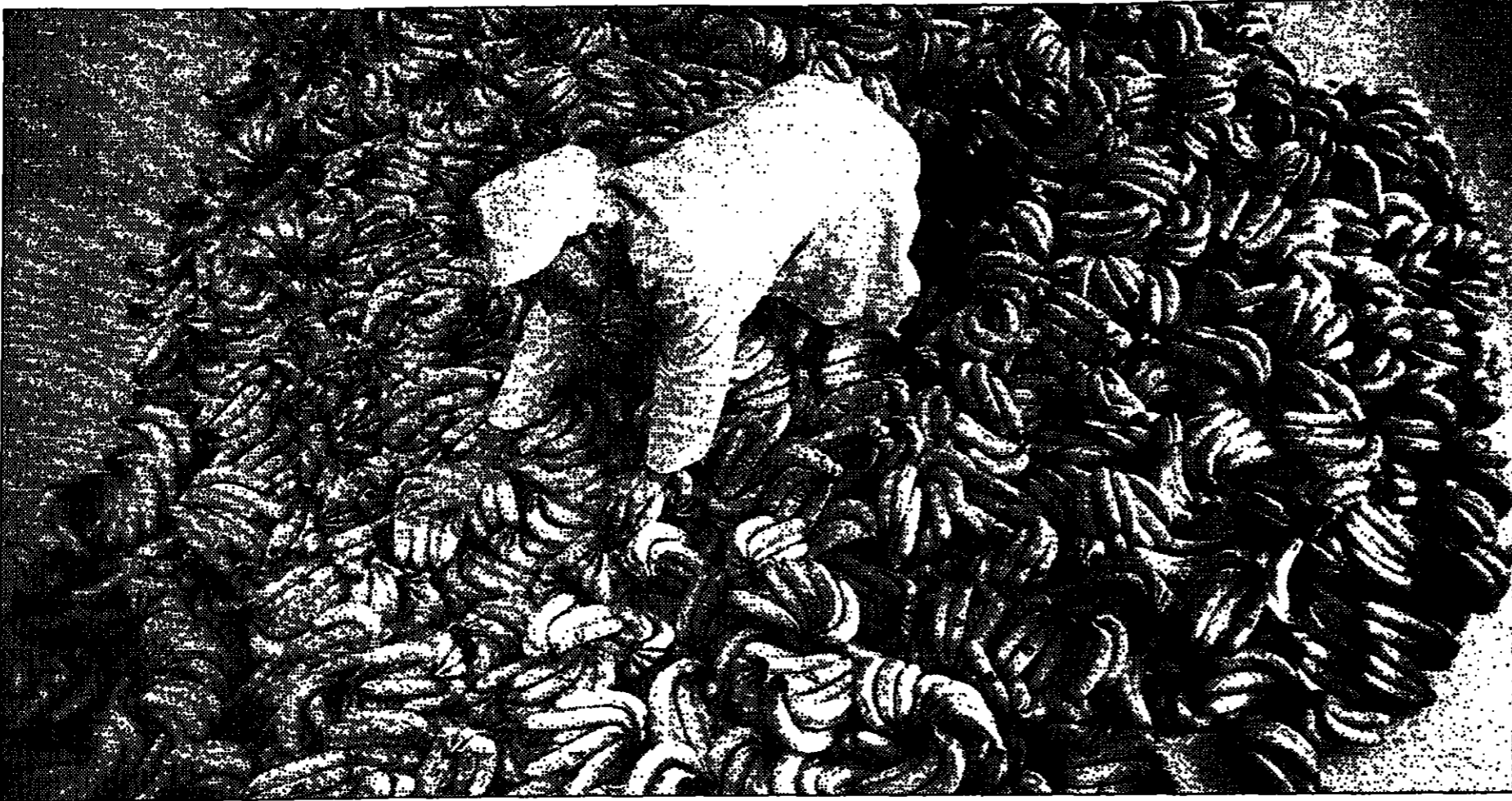
MICHAEL Dobson, chief executive of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the City-based investment bank arm of Germany's largest commercial bank, was yesterday nominated to Deutsche Bank's executive board. He replaces John Craven, board member for the past six years, who stays on as DMG's chairman.

Mr Dobson, aged 43, who joined the then-Morgan Grenfell in 1978, is due to be formally appointed to the board at the bank's AGM on May 28 — which will also be asked to confirm a proposed dividend increase from DM1.65 to DM1.80 per DM5 share. The total pay-out rises with tax benefits to DM2.57. The bank said parent net profit totalled DM1,597 billion in 1995, compared with DM1,575 billion a year earlier. — *Reuter*

**Blow for electronic noses**

SHARES of AromaScan, which makes electronic "noses", fell 42p to 126p yesterday after the company issued its second profits warning this year. AromaScan, whose shares mysteriously fell shortly after its flotation two summers ago, said its loss for the current year would be "significantly greater than the market currently estimates".

The Crawley-based group said it had sold instruments to more than 70 multi-national companies, but added that because of the time taken for prospective buyers to assess the system, it had been difficult to assess future orders. The warning comes just weeks after AromaScan indicated that second half orders for its electronic noses were running "significantly lower" than during the first six months of the year. — *Ian King*



Green bananas... Process worker Jason Teyhan sorts through raw material to go into Banana Conditioner for Body Shop. The 'ethical' cosmetics chain celebrated its 20th birthday yesterday with founder Anita Roddick announcing plans to expand into South Africa, Argentina and Chile, and to introduce self-service aromatherapy bars. PHOTOGRAPH: ROGER BAMBESER

**Orange sparkles on debut**

Nicholas Bannister  
Technology Editor

ORANGE'S stock market debut yesterday was a roaring success with big instant profits for the mobile phone group's new shareholders and its original owners. Hutchison Whampoa and British Aerospace.

The shares started trading at 242.5p, leaving new shareholders with a 37.5p a share profit on the offer price of 205p. The shares ended the day at 237.5p, valuing the

company at £2.9 billion — at the top end of analysts' earlier estimates.

However, the allocation of shares has been scaled down in the face of overwhelming demand. Many institutions will receive no shares while private investors, the bulk of them Orange customers, will receive only a percentage of shares applied for.

The flotation's success has provided a double bonus for Hutchison. Do it All, B&Q saw profits slide last year from £83 million to £55 million. Some of that drop was due to extraneous factors such as a higher pension contribution, but there remains a big hole in the operating performance, which stems from continuing price pressure and poor operational performance.

There has been speculation that the managing director, Jim Hodgkinson, would pay the price and leave the group once again, as he did in 1992. Speculation will continue, since the group's chief executive, Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, yesterday gave him less than a fullsome vote of confidence.

"There has been some tough talking", Sir Geoffrey said, but added that Mr Hod-

kinson was expected to carry out the recovery plan.

The plan is less than convincing, however. It centres on tighter operational management, with slower expansion of the Warehouse format and slower upgrading of the main Supercentre stores.

There is nothing wrong with that — it obviously makes so much sense to protect power tools from theft and to improve stockholding that the only question is why it wasn't done before. But there remains the central question of whether the fundamental strategy will work.

Kingfisher has slowed the expansion of the 21-strong Warehouse chain — apparently the main source of friction with Mr Hodgkinson — but still believes there is scope for 75 of these giant "destination stores" without making a great dent in the sales of the Supercentres.

One has to be careful — after all, in the 1970s sages predicted that there was capacity for no more than a handful of ordinary DIY stores, and now the country is awash with them.

But it is difficult to see, first, that there will ever be enough demand to support anything like 75 Warehouses, and second, that 75 such giants will leave much scope for lesser B&Q stores.

It would be easier to have faith in the strategy if Kingfisher's retail track record was more convincing. True, the Woolworths chain was rescued, but from a position which would have been difficult not to improve.

Otherwise, the group has simply picked up other people's concepts and run with them with varying degrees of success.

About 70 per cent of the 33,000 applications for shares from individuals came from customers of Orange's mobile phone and paging services — the only individuals specifically targeted with offer information. The offer to individual investors had a minimum investment of £1,000. Orange has decided to give preference to people who applied for the minimum or just above it. Applications at the £1,000 level have been scaled down to 82 per cent, with investors getting 400 shares with an allocation value of £820. The percentage steadily declines to 3.1 per cent for applications

for £200,000 worth of shares. People who applied for shares worth more than £200,000, and people who applied for shares at below the final offer price of 205p will get no shares.

Orange and its advisers have been even harsher with institutional applications through the global offer in the UK and the US. "We have focused the allocation on those interested in being long-term holders of the shares," a spokesman said. No shares will go to "stags".

Kleinwort Benson, Orange's advisers, have already triggered a mechanism to make extra shares available

to the market. If the facility is fully used, the stakes of Hutchison and B&E will be diluted to 47.33 per cent and 21.48 per cent, respectively.

Orange is still incurring losses and its share price has been based on analysts' estimates of its growth well into the next century.

One analyst noted that if the growth in the mobile phone business in the UK and the level of Orange's revenue per customer were 5 per cent below expectations, the group could be worth nearer £2 billion than £3 billion.

Leader comment, page 8

**Woolies' owner shoplifts ideas**

OUTLOOK/A long way to go for Kingfisher to win through, reports Roger Cowe

KINGFISHER'S rebound from last year's post-Christmas crisis looks impressive, as did yesterday's buoyant share price. But the headline figures published yesterday exaggerate the extent of the retail group's recovery, and hide how far it has to go to be back on an even keel.

First, the apparent surge in earnings to £312 million stems from a profit on the sale of a French investment. Excluding that, and a bonus from a 53-week year, retail operating profit was marginally down. Some recovery.

Second, Superdrug seems to be the only part of the group whose performance does not leave something to be desired. Elsewhere it is a story of paradise lost, postponed, or seen only through the mist.

Christmas 1994 was a disaster for Woolworths, one of Kingfisher's four main British brands. This year it made a comeback, but profits are still lower than in 1994. The Comet electrical chain scraped back into the black last year, but remains a long way from sensible profit

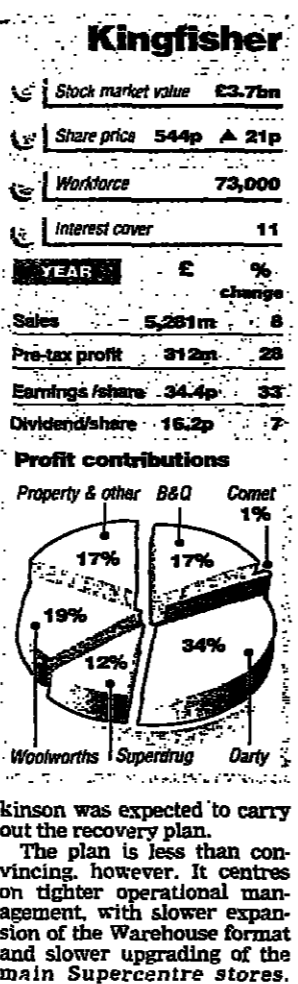
levels. Profits growth of 9 per cent at the French electrical chain Darty looks impressive, but was greatly flattered by the strength of the franc. And now the DIY chain B&Q is in trouble.

B&Q was the powerhouse of the group in the 1980s, and at first seemed to be relatively unscathed by the downturn in the DIY trade as the 1990s housing boom ended. As market leader it even managed to plough ahead while Texas Homecentre cut its throat with suicidal price promotions.

Suddenly, however, B&Q is suffering. Despite the takeover of Texas by far-from-suicidal Sainsbury's Homebase, and despite the continuing nightmare of Do It All, B&Q saw profits slide last year from £83 million to £55 million. Some of that drop was due to extraneous factors such as a higher pension contribution, but there remains a big hole in the operating performance, which stems from continuing price pressure and poor operational performance.

There has been speculation that the managing director, Jim Hodgkinson, would pay the price and leave the group once again, as he did in 1992. Speculation will continue, since the group's chief executive, Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, yesterday gave him less than a fullsome vote of confidence.

"There has been some tough talking", Sir Geoffrey said, but added that Mr Hod-



**Barratt needs land to expand**

Ian King

BARRATT Development, one of Britain's biggest housebuilders, yesterday backed its belief that the ailing housing market is set for recovery, announcing a £90 million rights issue, the proceeds to be spent on land.

Barratt, unveiling a 19 per cent jump in half-year pre-tax profits to £19.1 million, said it expected house prices to rise in line with average earnings (3.25 per cent) for the rest of the year.

But despite the upbeat statement, Sir Lawrie Barratt, founder and chairman of the Tyneside-based group, made another of his now customary attacks on the Government's housing policy, which he said had put pressure on house sellers.

He added: "In spite of the favourable ratio of house prices to income and relatively low mortgage rates, the market was adversely affected by Government action to reduce Aides and Income Support, and further held back by a lack of confidence in job security."

Sir Lawrie also said that Barratt, which completed 6,201 houses during 1995, was on the look-out for possible acquisitions as the building

market continues to consolidate. He said Barratt had looked at the 12 house-builders put up for sale over the past three years, but none had met the group's land requirements.

Meanwhile, the group intends to reduce borrowings and increase the group's land bank in the South-east, where it plans to expand rapidly.

However, Barratt refused to say whether it plans to pull out of its US housebuilding business, which continues to make a loss.

Barratt shares closed down 7p at 232p on the results, against the one-for-four rights price of 200p.

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**Underside**

Dan Atkinson

HOW fortunate that HSBG (Midland's parent) whacked out its invites to the launch of chief economist Roger Bootle's new opus *The Death of Inflation - Surviving and Thriving in the Zero Era*, ahead of yesterday's Post Office announcement of a penny rise in first-class stamps (that's an almost-zero 4 per cent increase, against a nearer-to-zero national rate of 2.9 per cent).

The last death-throes of inflation, no doubt (along with rail fares, utility bills, supermarket prices...)

THE horror, the horror (1): The old middle-class jibe about the QE2 being stuffed to the gunwales not with Gary Grant characters but with Birmingham tobaccoists looms close to reality, we hear.

Bookings on Cunard's flagship are "up significantly", according to owner Trafalgar House, since the ship featured in a special episode of Corona-

tion Street, an episode available on video since Christmas. This episode, one of the best-selling videos ever, was finally broadcast last Sunday, but Cunard reckons it has already helped bookings. Somerset Maugham fans should stay with P&O.

THE horror, the horror (2): Strenuous efforts by up-tight businessmen to be politically correct continue to wreak havoc with the English language. The latest mangling comes in the launch document of Enterprise UK '96, an exhibition of African, Asian and Caribbean busi-

ness achievement. First Robert Ayling, Brit-Arboss, said: "It makes sense to invest in the diversity of Britain's ethnic populous." Sorry?

The communiqué added: "Indeed, Britain has some 3.3 million ethnic minorities — set to double over the next 25 years."

Even including the famously-fissiparous Gaelic-speaking regions, plus sovereign states such as the Yorkshire County Cricket Club, 6.6 million ethnic sub-divisions seems a little on the high side. Event organiser Ms Vanderpype highlighted the achievements of "business people of ethnic origin". How strange that some of our business leaders are group-less.

With so many ethnic minorities on offer, surely even Mr Ayling can find a berth somewhere?

MEANWHILE, former Food minister Nicholas Soames is leading by example in the battle against mad-cow hysteria. Luncheon yesterday saw Mr Soames — now translated to the Ministry of Defence — wolfing down a super-juicy fillet steak in Christopher's restaurant in Covent Garden.

ASK Ejlert Fronsda, president of the Norwegian stock exchange, about results, and, rather than drone on about spreads and share volumes, he embarks on a passionate critique of Eric Cantona's goal-scoring record.

Such devotion to an English side, he says, is not unusual. "We've had live matches every Saturday since the 1950s, one week English and the next week German."

Why, though, the appeal of the English game? "Back then," explains Mr Fronsda, "the Germans were not too popular and father has passed this to son." Tut tut, not very federal (but then good old Norway isn't, of course).

NINETY-NINE point five per cent is the sort of result associated with Soviet general elections in the President Brezhnev days, but when it describes the take-up rate for converting British Biotech warrants into shares, you can assume it's a true bill.

Biotech has been a runaway success during the past two years, and no sane shareholder would reject the chance of free money. So who was the dipstick who passed up the offer?

Biotech chief Keith McCulloch knew, but is enough of a gentleman to keep a secret. "He wanted to take up the shares, but forgot to post the letter," he explains.

LEVER Brothers' ex-chief Andrew Seth is heading a national campaign, to be launched in a few weeks' time, "to market learning like washing powder". An unfortunate choice of words, given Levers took a terrible slating in 1994 when its "magic" new ingredient, manganese, proved to shed the clothes it was supposedly rendering whiter than white.

FORGET the propaganda about British financial services practically expiring under a mountain of bureaucratic bumph. AFCMS, the private-client stockbrokers' group, was asked recently by Hezza's decontrol unit for a hit-list of hated rules and regs.

AFCMS duly wrote to its 130,000 member-firms asking for suggestions. On Tuesday, a new-boy member inquired as to whether he was too late to participate. Not exactly: he was, believe, the only respondent.

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Now there is a simple, straightforward way to borrow up to £15,000, whether it be to improve your home or make a dream come true. With the new Alliance & Leicester Homeowners Loan there are no administration costs or survey fees and with our attractive low interest rates this really is the affordable way to borrow a larger sum. Moreover there are no interviews and you can normally have an 'in principle' decision over the phone in minutes. Phone us today!

BORROW FROM £5,000 - £15,000 AND REPAY OVER 5 - 10 YEARS.				
INTEREST RATE FROM 11.75% APR (VARIABLE)				
AMOUNT	APR %	120 MONTHS	96 MONTHS	60 MONTHS
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£13,000	11.75	180.26	205.34	283.70
£11,000	12.25	155.36	176.44	242.54
£9,000	12.25	127.11	144.36	198.44
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£5,000	12.75	71.91	81.43	111.38

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Racing Cigar burns off the best in the world

Chris Hawkins in Dubai sees wonder horse lead a clean sweep for America

SPREAD, stamina and natural talent are essential qualities in any athlete, human or equine, but the most admirable is courage and Cigar showed awesome valour to beat Soul Of The Matter by half a length in a desperate battle for the Dubai World Cup yesterday.



Desert delight... Cigar has the call over Soul Of The Matter in the Dubai World Cup

After L'Carriere had made the running early on, the Japanese challenger Lively Mount forged to the front, but it was only on the outside.

burst on the scene, having made a phenomenal amount of ground. For a stride or two, half a furlong out, he seemed to get in front but Burt Bacharach's colt would have needed a train, a boat and a plane to get by.

The first three home and demonstrated their dominance of dirt-track racing. Pentre, Britain's main hope, ran on gamely to take fourth place, while Needle Grass, trained by Clive Brittain, finished seventh.

Cigar will now go back to New York to be rested and then readied for the Hollywood Gold Cup in 90 days' time. If he takes that, it will be 18 in a row and he will need two more to beat the record of the mighty Citation.

"Maybe he wasn't quite at his best today," said Mott, "but he had to reach down and find something else. Sheer grit was what he wanted and he proved he had it."

Taunton

Table of race results for Taunton, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Leicester

Table of race results for Leicester, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Aintree card with form guide for the televised races

Table of race results for Aintree, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Touren Prince to go one better in mini-National

AINTREE is no longer all about one race. The supporting programme leading up to Saturday's Grand National has grown in stature in recent years, and there is a Cheltenham-like quality about today's opening card.

Cheltenham has the Gold Cup and Champion Hurdle. Aintree has the Grand National, and inevitably it is the John Hughes Memorial Trophy which takes centre stage on day one.

Henrietta Knight, trainer of Touren Prince (3.45), will be hoping for better luck with Debutante Days in the Glenlivet Anniversary Hurdle after the filly's first flight tumble at Cheltenham.

Backed down to favouritism in the Triumph Hurdle on the strength of two authoritative wins, Debutante Days would surely have been involved in the finish, for she had easily beaten the Cheltenham first and second, Paddy's Return and Minsington, at Sandown in February.

Advertisement for 'homeowners borrow up to 100 by phone and receive a cheque in days'.

Advertisement for 'RACELINE' featuring phone numbers and racing information.



Soccer

Diehard protests over European debacle in Bordeaux mar Berlusconi's 10th anniversary in charge at the San Siro

Milan caught by fans' bitter backlash

AFTER the success Milan have enjoyed under Silvio Berlusconi it might have been expected that his 10th anniversary in charge of the club would have been cause for celebration.

"You can lose the derby and the cup but not your dignity" was emblazoned on one of the banners.

In four seasons they have failed to reach a final in Europe, having appeared in the last three in the Champions Cup.

In attack George Weah, who has been outstanding despite missing four weeks playing for Liberia in the African Nations Cup, is out for another month after breaking his arm in Bordeaux.

loss of dignity of a team that is winning its fourth title in five years?" asked the Gazzetta dello Sport.

Championship because of the constant scare over British beef.

Republic of Ireland 0, Russia 2

Keane sent off as Irish luck runs out

Cynthia Bateman

THE Irish are beginning to wonder if they used up all their legendary good luck.

Nevertheless there were encouraging signs for the new manager Mick McCarthy after his first game in charge.

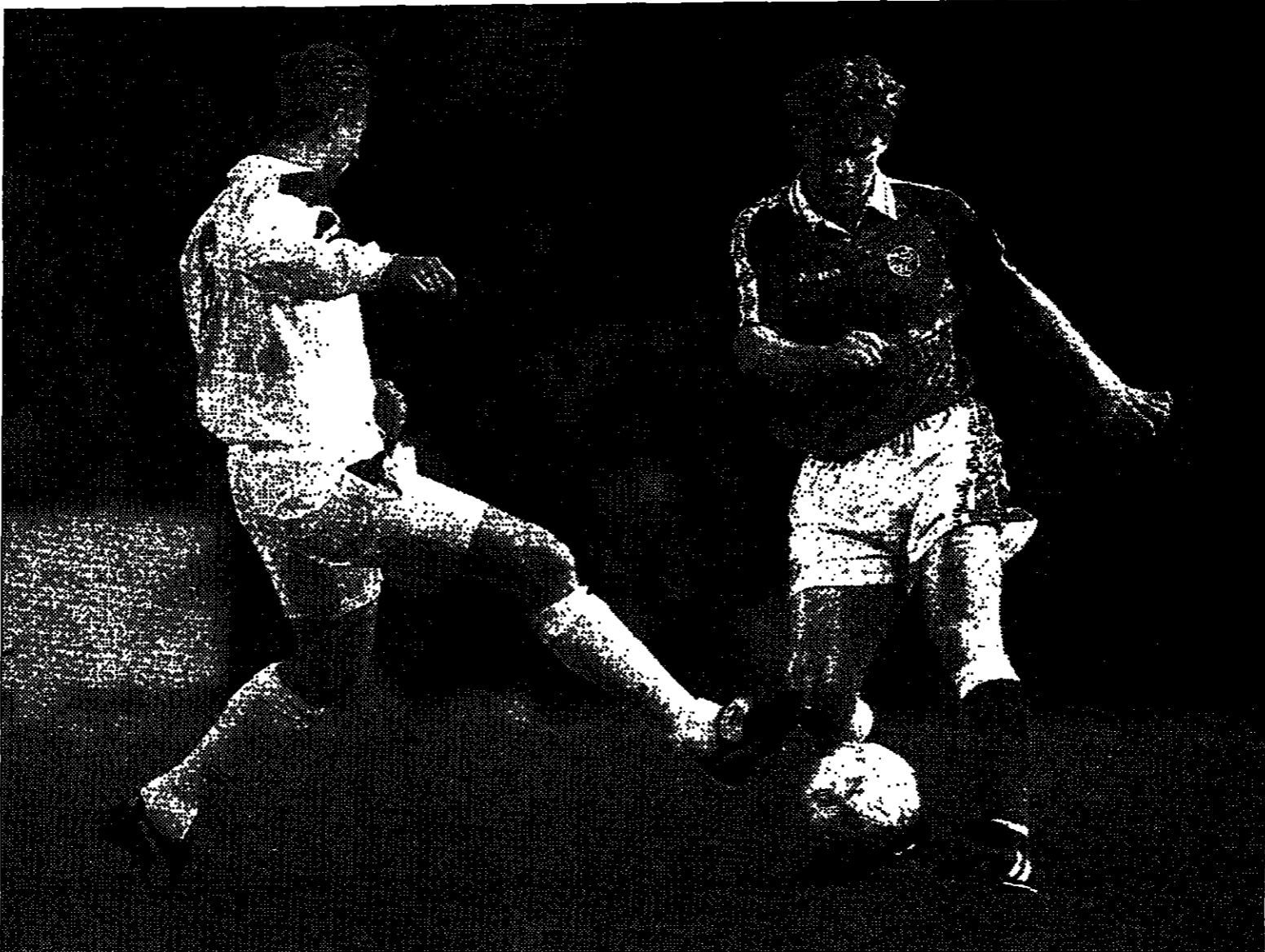
On a crisp dry night, perfect for football, Lansdowne Road was packed close to its 60,000 capacity.

Given, the 19-year-old debutant goalkeeper, was tested early by the Russians but

showed no sign of nerves as the Republic's striker Kilyanov, one of eight players in the side with clubs outside Russia, produced a first shot which the Blackburn goalkeeper, now on loan at Sunderland, saved confidently at the foot of the near post.

The Irish grew more comfortable with one another as half-time approached. But after a 25-yard free-kick from McAteer failed to deceive the goalkeeper, the Russians counter-attacked swiftly.

Cascarino replaced Al-dridson on the hour, and the Irish had their best spell. In the 64th minute Quinn headed against the bar and the Irish then missed a penalty when the goalkeeper blocked Staunton's spot-kick.



Quick release... the Republic's Staunton gets rid of the ball as the Russian Karpin lunges into the tackle

PHOTOGRAPH: ALAN BETSON

Northern Ireland 0, Norway 2

Hamilton's men find no way against Norway

Michael Walker

ON A soulless night in Belfast the promise of Bryan Hamilton's young Northern Ireland team evaporated like confidence in cattle farming.

Five English-based Norwegians and another two on the bench made this essentially a Premiership clash, though the atmosphere in the early stages was more reminiscent of a reserve-team match.

A break by Norway's languid midfielder Rudi freed Solbakken for a toe-poked goal, and as four Norwegians swept upfield they found themselves confronted by only two defenders.

hit a post when he should have scored. Rudi was equally culpable a few minutes later when, having an inswinging corner from Bjornedye again saw Worthington come to his goalkeeper's rescue.

from time Ostenstad finished off Rudi's cross from four yards, and the final indignity for the home side came time when Dorey was dismissed for elbowing Johnsen.

United lose their appeal

Ian Hoos

MANCHESTER United's pride and pocket were hit yesterday when they lost their appeal against a £20,000 fine for illegally appointing one of the country's most promising young players.

United had been trying to overturn an FA commission's verdict, reached on January 29, which found them guilty of poaching the former Oldham Athletic schoolboy David Brown.

"We felt we were working within the rules and are disappointed with today's result. The rules need clarifying and, although no further appeal is allowed, I think we will be pressing the Premier League to look at the rule-book."

The January verdict came only a fortnight after United had been censured by the FA in a similar case involving a young Arsenal player, Matthew Wicks.

United's appeal was presented by the club director and solicitor Maurice Watkins, who argued that their approach to the 17-year-old was within football's rules and regulations.

Third Dane set for Ibrox

MIKKEL BECK, currently playing for Fortuna Cologne in Germany's second division, is expected to become the third Danish player on Rangers' books in a deal worth £985,000.

Beck's adviser Kurt Behrens said yesterday that there was also interest from Hamburg and a top Spanish club but that the striker wanted to go to Glasgow, if personal terms could be sorted out.

Beck's kind of likes the idea of going to Scotland and joining up with Brian and Erik Bo at Rangers," said Behrens. "I do not know the position of talks between Rangers and his club but everyone is telling me it is very positive."

Results

Soccer FRIENDLY INTERNATIONALS Northern Ireland 0 (0) Norway 2 (2) 2,343

EUROPEAN U-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Croatia-Italy, second leg Spain 2, Czech Republic 1

ASIAN OLYMPIC QUALIFIERS: Thailand 2, Japan 1; Saudi Arabia 1, Iran 0

Soccer

EUROPEAN U-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Croatia-Italy, second leg Spain 2, Czech Republic 1

ASIAN OLYMPIC QUALIFIERS: Thailand 2, Japan 1; Saudi Arabia 1, Iran 0

AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS: Tunisia 2, Egypt 1

Results

World Championship (Adelaide): England 2-0, South Africa 1-0

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Athletics Lisbon defends Modahl testing

Duncan Mackay

PORTUGUESE officials who conducted the doping test on Diane Modahl have broken their 19-month silence to defend themselves after the International Amateur Athletic Federation said they had mishandled her sample.

When Modahl's medical experts travelled to Portugal in August 1994 to witness the testing of the B sample they were horrified at the conditions inside the laboratory.

The technical director who analysed her sample, Professor Jorge Barbosa, twice refused to come to London to answer questions at British Athletic Federation hearings.

Modahl says she will now give a private urine sample before every race. It will be sent for storage to Professor Simon Gaskell, whose evidence was crucial in clearing her name.

A Munich court is due to rule today on Katrin Krabbe's appeal for compensation after two bans for taking clenbuterol halted her career in 1992.

Rugby League

Bulls bid for unsettled McNamara

Paul Fitzpatrick

BRADFORD BULLS may be close to signing a deal with Hull for their Great Britain forward Steve McNamara.

That is well below Hull's list price of £250,000 and has been rejected. But an increase of £10,000 or £20,000 might clinch the deal.

Bradford, who reached the Challenge Cup final for the first time in 23 years last Saturday, have made enquiries for the 24-year-old forward before. He is a player long admired by the Super League club's coach Brian Smith.

Clive Griffiths, the South Wales coach, is trying desperately to build his squad in time for the new club's opening fixture against Hull Kings on Saturday. The former New Zealand Rovers in the Second Division at Aberavon on Sunday.

His chief target is Richie Byrnes, the Leeds, Wales and Great Britain forward, but he also hopes to sign Andy Currier from Warrington, John Fieldhouse from Halifax and the young former Levens pair Mike Riley and John McEneaney.

Richard Henare, Warrington's signing from Carlisle, will be unable to play at Leeds in the Super League on Sunday because he has not yet been granted a work permit.

Advertisement for Tomalin's horse insurance, featuring a horse and rider and the text 'Tomalin's horse insurance'.



Rugby Union

Purse strings straining

Robert Armstrong finds leading clubs bracing themselves for the big pay-day

ENGLAND'S League One clubs are bracing themselves for a combined wage bill as high as £7.5 million next season, when clubs accustomed to paying out less than £100,000 a season will find players, coaches, administrators and ground staff all on their payrolls for the first time.

Television and sponsorship income will be vital if the 10 or 12 clubs are to balance their books.

Gloucester have budgeted for a wage bill of £850,000 to £700,000, with the lion's share going to the 49 players they expect to put under contract in the coming months. Mike Coley, the chief executive, said his club would probably occupy a midway point in the pay league, which was likely to be headed by the big two of Bath and Leicester.

"None of the clubs have the money they need to pay the players underwritten yet," admitted Coley, who used to be involved in fundraising as the RFU marketing manager. "There is no doubt the money will have to come from television and commercial sources."

Bath, who have more international players — some in the second team — than any other club, will have to find some £1.5 million to pay 40 players and four full-time club employees, including the directors of rugby and administration. If Bath's current interna-



Eyes down for overtime... Scotland's pack, with their captain Rob Walwright on the left, train for the Hong Kong Sevens starting tomorrow. ANAT GAVON

nationals are not guaranteed the going rate of between £40,000 and £60,000 a season they will eventually drift away to rival clubs.

Leicester, who usually field six internationals in the league, need to find about £1 million, a figure that could increase sharply when players such as Maurice Cockerill, Darren Gar-

forth and Austin Healey — who plans to switch from Orrell — work their way into the senior England squad.

Harlequins' lucrative sponsorship with the Japanese electronic giant NEC will guarantee them the £1 million they need to attract better players and to hold on to those they have

developed at The Stoop. Northampton, who look certain to win promotion from League Two, also have a big international contingent which should push their wage bill above £800,000. If Wasps and Bristol mean to compete for a place in Europe they will also need to regard £800,000 as a ball-park fig-

ure, and clubs at the lower end of the money league such as Sale, Orrell and West Hartlepool (provided they stay up) will need to find between £350,000 and £600,000.

The handful of genuine world-class players in English rugby — such as Martin Johnson, Lawrence Dallaglio and Ben Clarke —

should be earning six-figure salaries within a year or two, yet many good club players who have missed out on international honours may be fortunate to earn even £20,000 a year. Market forces are bound to create a substantial gap between the high-profile

haves and the underrated have-nots.

Cricket

England close in on Lloyd

David Foot

DAVID LLOYD may be named as England coach by the weekend. He has told friends that he is flattered to be linked with the newly created post and is keen to accept.

His employers, Lancashire, for whom he is a successful and ebullient coach, are thought to be prepared to release him "with great reluctance" from his present short-term contract. But there remain delicate negotiations between the county and the Test and County Cricket Board. Lloyd is also likely to ask for a guarantee of a longer contract than the six months initially on offer.

The TCCB chairman Dennis Silk said yesterday: "We are currently finding out, following discussions at yesterday's TCCB executive meeting, about contract situations."

"We have to check if counties would be prepared to release someone under contract or not. Then we have to work out terms for what initially will be a six-month contract with us."

"Of course we want to sort things out as quickly as possible, and I'm hopeful of being able to announce the appointment by the weekend."

Lloyd remains the hot favourite, not least because of his added experience as a coach. Lord's is also impressed by the reports it has received of his easy-going, jocular rapport with the players at Old Trafford. He gets on well with the far more introspective Mike Atherton, whose views are certain to be sought.

Atherton, who appeared to be going into some kind of self-imposed retreat after England's exit from the World Cup — his wish to stay as captain appeared uncertain and his demeanour at times reinforced that doubt — would doubtless be happier to continue as leader if he were working in Test tandem with Lloyd.

However, England's chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth has championed Lloyd's main rival for the post, John Emburey. Although the former Middlesex spinner has said privately that he would like to be considered, negotiations between the TCCB and his new employers Northamptonshire might prove more difficult. The county have just taken him on for four years.

Lord's is expecting up to half a dozen nominations from the counties for the two vacant posts of Test selectors. In addition to Fred Titmus and David Graveney, names being mentioned include Mike Gatting, John Edrich, Brian Bolus, Mark Nicholas and inevitably the old maverick himself, Ian Botham.

India and Pakistan will play five one-day internationals for the Friendship Cup in Canada in September as part of a plan to popularise the game worldwide.

Arif Abbasi, chief executive of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), said the recent World Cup on the subcontinent had sparked a global cricket revolution. He said he was not aware of any other place for the World Cup might soon be the West Indies and North America put together," he said.

Matthew Engel on England, G2 Inside Story.

Sport in brief

Major horse player comes out of Japan

TERUNOBU NAKAO, a Japanese businessman, is setting up a multi-million-pound training empire at the Curragh in Ireland, writes Ken Clater.

Nakao has signed up the Irish trainer Liam Browne to oversee the operation, which will involve more than 200 horses. Nakao, who has never owned racehorses before, and Browne will be busy at the main bloodstock sales this year and plan to send many of their horses to England to be trained.

Browne said: "We will have runners with two trainers at hand and Lambourn and with one handler at Epsom. Our aim will be to target all the major prizes in Britain, Ireland, France, Japan and America."

Five Live claims three million

BBC Radio Five Live registered a staggering three million listeners for its 4 am broadcast of the Tyson-Bruno fight from Las Vegas, writes John Duncan. The figure is double the previous best of 1.5 million for Saturday afternoon Sport on Five, though figures are hard to compare because of a change in reporting methods.

French avoid Bisham bashing

GREAT BRITAIN'S Olympic-bound women's team extended their unbeaten run to eight games yesterday but, with the corner drills that were so successful in Tuesday's 8-2 victory ineffective yesterday, they managed to beat the inexperienced French only 3-0, writes Pat Rowley.

Tina Cullen scored the first goal after 12 minutes with an unconvincing shot and, early in the second half, set up Rhona Simpson for her ninth goal in 10 internationals.

Tomba ciao to Carabinieri

ALBERTO TOMBA left his job as a sergeant in the paramilitary Carabinieri yesterday in the wake of a scuffle with paparazzi. The head of the Carabinieri, Commander Luigi Federici, paid tribute to Tomba but added that his public behaviour "sometimes complicated his relations with the force". The 29-year-old world and Olympic skiing champion recently failed a photographer with a karate kick and threw a glass trophy at another.

Another fright night for White

JIMMY WHITE, a shadow of the player who captured Benson and Hedges Irish Masters titles in 1985 and 1986, failed to negotiate the first round of this year's event at Goffs in County Kildare yesterday when he lost 6-3 to Ken Doherty, writes Clive Everton.

White, languishing at 17th in the provisional world rankings, put together a highest break of only 25 as Doherty established a 5-0 advantage. "I'm hitting the ball great in practice," White maintained. "I feel I'm close to top form."

Court wants Botha stripped

ANREW JERSEY court has ordered the International Boxing Federation to strip its heavyweight champion Francois Botha of his title.

The South African tested positive for a steroid after winning a decision over Axel Schulz for the vacant title in December. Judge Dickinson R Debevoise ruled that the IBF's failure to depose the champion was an "egregious" violation of its own rules.

Golf

Faldo and Montgomerie air a difference of approach

David Davies in Jacksonville finds a lighter side to our top pair but no meeting of minds

IN THE nicest possible way Nick Faldo was contemptuous of Colin Montgomerie's fitness and Montgomerie openly dismissive of Faldo's obsession with analysis, as the Ryder Cup partners prepared for the biggest tournament of the season so far, the Players Championship here in Florida.

Montgomerie, European No. 1 for the past three years, has lost 30lb in an effort "to look more like an athlete". Faldo, who has long looked one and has a rigorous conditioning regime, dismissed his rival's efforts. Asked if Monty could match him in the workout room, he said: "He couldn't go the first lap. You have to be an athlete or an animal to train with me."

Montgomerie, in his turn, was asked about his attitude to coaching, to practising and to adopting and adapting in the way so many modern

golfers do. "I think the longest I have ever spent with a coach on the practice ground is one hour," he said. "And that was with the man who has taught me for 22 years, Bill Ferguson."

"I don't need to practise as much as others and the practice range can be positively dangerous. You keep over-hearing other people's problems and you get to thinking about them; and representatives keep offering you new equipment. I've brought 14 clubs for this trip and those are the ones I'm going to use. I like to keep it simple."

Though he won his only event this year, the Dubai Classic, Montgomerie has yet to win in the United States, an omission since he has lost two distinct chances, in play-offs for the US Open and the USPGA. He is not allowing it to worry him. "I make it hard for myself to win in America;

I only ever compete against the strongest fields."

This week is an example. More than 40 of the top 50 in the Sony rankings are playing and there were more until Bernhard Langer and Barry Lane dropped out injured.

Faldo's shadower was present again yesterday, filming every full shot the Englishman played over the back nine holes. Faldo would approach the ball, the cameraman, a David Leadbetter employee, would take up position behind him, Faldo would practise the particular move he is working on at the moment and then, after the shot had been struck, watch the re-run on the video.

"It's an instant referral," said Faldo. "You know what you're trying to do, you practise it, then you see whether you actually did it." If that sounds an extreme form of preparation, it will soon be outdated. "The next thing," said Faldo, "will be 3-D. With just one camera shot they'll be able to show your swing from as many different angles



Montgomerie... simple aim

as you like, and all in 3-D." Faldo is looking forward to such a development but retains a certain humorous detachment from the way golf coaching is developing. "Soon," he said, "we won't have to go out on to the course personally, just send a hologram image. That could be golf in the future."

The media official in charge pointed out, though, that Faldo would still have to turn up for the press interview. "Oh," he said. "I'd just send a cardboard cut-out." An American journalist, greatly daring, said: "Well, that's what we get anyway." And it is a measure of the new, more relaxed Faldo that he took it in good part and laughed.

Prospect of Augusta keeps Roe on a high

Michael Britten in Funchal

MARK ROE will take a long time to come down to earth when the Madeira Island Open starts here today. It is not the steep fairways and elevated greens of the spectacular Santo da Serra course 1500 feet above Funchal that will be keeping his head in the clouds, but thoughts of his first US Masters appearance next month.

Roe can hardly contain his excitement at the prospect of playing at Augusta with legends such as Nicklaus, Palmer and Player. "If I fall down the stairs next week I will play on crutches," he said. He qualified because he finished 13th in last year's US Open, although he was 126th on the European Tour.

He appreciates the irony in the invitation which arrived on Christmas Eve and which he accepted 20 minutes later. "I should have played when I was ninth in the Order of Merit after winning the French Open in 1994," he said. "At the moment I don't deserve a place."

However, he will be much better prepared than seemed likely earlier this year when divorce and personal problems almost drove him to suicide. With Augusta in mind he has armed himself with a new 6.5-degree driver that has given him an extra 25 yards from the tee and earned him his first cheque in five appearances in Lisbon last week.

He has also received encouragement from Severiano Ballesteros, the first European to conquer Augusta in

1980. "In Dubai Seve forgot his own problems to tell me that I was a feel player who should forget about lessons and just do my own thing. Coming from the greatest feel player in the game, that was a huge compliment."

A five-inch sunflower on the back of Roe's cap to publicise the Rainbow Hole Charity for terminally ill children will be an essential part of his Masters equipment. In the meantime the 33-year-old from Sheffield is almost back to his old irrepressible self. "I am becoming happier with myself and feeling better in my mind," he said as he contemplated this week's challenge. "This course must have been designed by Chris Bonington; the PGA has put oxygen on the 1st and 10th tees, so all I need are crampoons."

Unhappy end for Gallachers

THE former Ryder Cup captain Bernard Gallacher and his 18-year-old son Jamie were taken to the last green yesterday as they went out of the Sunningdale Foursomes in the second round.

In a see-saw match with Sunningdale's Ian Campbell and Mark Roberts, the Gallachers, representing Wentworth, won the 11th hole, lost the 12th and took the 13th to go one up.

Campbell and Roberts then won the 15th and 16th and halved the last two holes for victory. Young Gallacher had a tricky putt at the 18th to keep the match alive but his ball hit the back of the hole and bounced three feet past.

Ice Hockey

Warriors take on Sir John

Vic Batscheider

THE Newcastle Warriors are to seek legal advice on their rejection by the new Superleague. They are angry that the league has instead chosen the Durham Wasps, a team who lack a suitable venue but happen to be owned by Sir John Hall, the Superleague's president elect.

The Warriors, who play at the 8,000-seat Newcastle Arena, claim to meet every requirement for Superleague membership. Durham have played this season's home games at the 1,000-capacity Crowtree Leisure Centre in Sunderland, where their con-

tinued tenancy is in doubt.

Yet the Superleague suggested yesterday that it was the Warriors who might soon be rendered homeless. "There is a question mark over their continued tenancy in Newcastle Arena," claimed Superleague's acting chief executive John Lord.

Noel Ferriss, the managing director for the Newcastle Arena managers, said: "We have a contract with Newcastle Warriors which is capable of enduring for up to 20 years, but it is also capable of enduring for less than one year. There are provisions which enable both parties to terminate the agreement under certain circumstances."

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# SportsGuardian

## INTERNATIONAL SOCCER

England 1, Bulgaria 0

# Ferdinand finds the finish

David Lacey

**A**N inspired and unselfish performance by Teddy Sheringham and a solid supporting role from Paul Gascoigne enabled England to dominate last night's friendly against Bulgaria at Wembley. Les Ferdinand's early goal should have been followed by several more against opponents who approached the game with considerably less urgency.

England's opening European Championship game against Switzerland is just over 10 weeks away. It is a fair bet last night's team will not be the one Terry Venables picks for that match. For those taking part the need to impress was paramount.

For the England coach this match, like the coming friendlies against Croatia and Hungary and maybe even the quirky game in China, was an opportunity to study performances and examine options. Certainly Bulgaria presented a meaningful yardstick. Even without the injured Stoichkov, seven of last night's issues had reached the 1994 World Cup semi-finals by beating Germany, the holders.

Bulgaria's early movements were reminiscent of that sultry afternoon in New Jersey, and a neat pass from Lechkov to Kostadinov in the England penalty area looked ominous. Nevertheless England were ahead by the sixth minute following a pass by Sheringham that would have pleased any tournament.

Picking the ball up in an apparently innocuous position, the Tottenham player turned and delivered a superb 30-yard ball into the path of Ferdinand, and the Newcastle striker's pace did the rest. Ivanov could not catch him and Mikhailov was beaten by a confident piece of finishing.

With Ince and Gascoigne linking consistently in midfield and McManaman beginning to cut in from the left and run at defenders, England kept up an impressive attacking momentum. Pearce and Stone gave their movements width and the combination of Sheringham's cunning and Ferdinand's speed and strength continued to pose Bulgaria problems through the middle.

Lechkov, setting up clever



Quick finish... Ferdinand's pace settles the match after six minutes as Ivanov tries desperately to block his shot

PHOTOGRAPH: ROSS KINNAIRD

passing movements with Penev and Kostadinov, looked capable of disrupting England's defence but the only real threat from Bulgaria in the first half-hour came when Senman had to snatch the ball from Kostadinov's feet after a little lob from Lechkov had sent him clear.

By half-time England might have scored several more goals. They suffered four near misses between the 34th and 38th minutes. Sheringham, making a late run to meet one of several sharply in-swing-

ing corners from Pearce on the right, glanced the ball just wide of the left-hand post. Ferdinand, accepting a return pass from Sheringham, again burst clear but this time overran the ball, allowing Mikhailov to smother the danger.

Then Ferdinand turned provider, sending in Gascoigne only for Mikhailov, who was spending more and more time out of the Bulgarian penalty area, to thwart him with a defender's sliding tackle.

As the half ended, Sheringham, who had been out-

standing, sent McManaman clear. The Liverpool player bore down on goal but lost control of the ball at the crucial moment.

Then a low cross from Gascoigne defeated everybody in the goalmouth until Ginchev achieved a half-clearance which went straight to McManaman. This time he mis-hit his shot and the ball bobbed to Ferdinand, who was denied a second goal by the right-hand post.

The Bulgarians made three changes at half-time.

Strangely Mikhailov was one of them: Popov, his replacement in goal, looked less sure of himself, especially when fumbling a centre from Southgate, who had come out of England's defence to set up for one of his thunderous shots.

That was the deception. Instead Gascoigne slipped the ball forward to McManaman, who spoilt the effect by shooting over the bar. But it was a good moment all the same.

Yet England were still the team more likely to score

goals and just past the hour a cleverly worked free-kick might have brought them another. Ince was sandwiched by Kostadinov and Ivanov as he approached the 18-yard line and Pearce prepared for one of his thunderous shots.

That was the deception. Instead Gascoigne slipped the ball forward to McManaman, who spoilt the effect by shooting over the bar. But it was a good moment all the same.

Yet England were still the team more likely to score

Scotland 1, Australia 0

# McCoist the headmaster for Scotland

Patrick Glenn

**B**ILLED as a trial, this match became more of an ordeal for some of those Scotland players hoping to secure a place in the final squad for this summer's European Championship.

On a largely unsatisfactory night in front of only 20,608, peripheral contenders such as Scotty, defender and midfielder respectively, and replace them with two forwards in Gallacher and Booth announced that he retains the scoring knack with a perfect header past Mark Bosnich early in the second half. In a match of very limited opportunities, at least the conversion ratio was well up.

Scotland enjoyed so much possession in the first half that there was a danger of players being tempted out of position to join the attack, leaving them vulnerable to the quick counter.

The problem was highlighted when a quick pass from Popovic would have left Tobin with a clear run at Leighton had he not been halted by a linesman's questionable offside decision.

If the Scots failed to look incisive or imaginative in the vicinity of Bosnich for long periods, it was largely due to the Australians' well-drilled back five, operating just behind another four who formed the first layer of resistance.

With the home side dominating possession everywhere but in Australia's penalty area, it was always likely free-kicks would offer Scotland their best method of scoring but it took 27 minutes for a them to win one in a promising position.

That was on the right edge of the box and from Collins's curling left-foot strike Bosnich flew to his right to save.

Collins, like McAllister, McStay and McKinlay in the Scotland midfield, had encountered great difficulty in opening up a defence in which Tobin, the Vidmar brothers, Popovic and Horvat were quick and alert.

During the first half, Australia seemed to have neither the inclination nor the ability to create any menace of their own.

It may have suited their purpose, but did nothing to warm those who had paid to watch on a bitterly cold night.

When Australia won a corner kick in the 44th minute, it seemed almost worthy of striking a set of medals.

The Scots may have had more ambition, but they were hardly more effective in trying to achieve it although O'Neil, wandering forward from central defence, drove the ball low and wide from around 30 yards.

Craig Brown's half-time decision to take off O'Neil and Kevin Gallacher, John Spencer and Billy McKinlay did not impress.

The oldest trialist of all, 33-year-old Ally McCoist, announced that he retains the scoring knack with a perfect header past Mark Bosnich early in the second half. In a match of very limited opportunities, at least the conversion ratio was well up.

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# Asprilla let off for a bit of horse play on the way

Robert Pryce

**F**AUSTINO ASPRILLA found trouble again yesterday when he turned up nine hours late for a gathering of the Colombian national team in Medellin.

Newcastle United's £7.5 million striker was dropped for today's game against Bolivia. His re-

instated after team-mates interceded on his behalf.

Asprilla's attitude is very bad and shows a lack of discipline, said Colombia's manager Hernan Dario Gomez. "I cannot allow him to behave like this."

"I had a family problem and arrived late," Asprilla said. "I have explained everything and apologised to Hernan and the squad

for this small act of indiscipline."

Local reports threw little light on Asprilla's "family problem". He was due at the training camp at midday on Tuesday but a local news agency reported that the player, who keeps pedigree horses on his farm near his home town of Tulsa, had been visiting a horse show in Manizales on Tuesday morning.

"I had a family problem and arrived late," Asprilla said. "I have explained everything and apologised to Hernan and the squad

"We know nothing about this," Terry McDermott, Newcastle's assistant manager, said yesterday. "Tino is due back on Friday and until we speak to him there is nothing to be said."

But Newcastle can hardly be surprised. Asprilla arrived with the reputation of an ungovernable maverick. In four years at Parma he crashed at least four cars and drove his coaches to

distraction. He earned a suspended sentence for a firearms offence in Colombia. A dispute with a bus driver is said to have caused the injury that forced him out of the 1993 Cup Winners' Cup final. And his first month in England was marred by a clash with Keith Curle of Manchester City which led to FA charges of violent and ungentlemanly conduct.

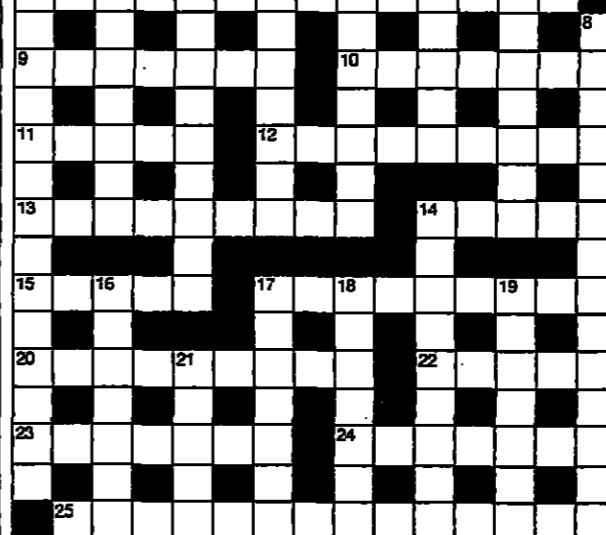
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## Guardian Crossword No 20,612

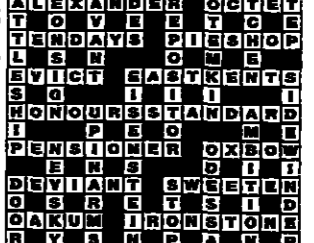
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22 Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 1 282 228. Call cost 25p per min, cheap rate, 49p per min at all other times. Service supplied by AFS



- Across**
- 1 Suspended work in ancient Babylon (7,7)
  - 9 They're associated with heads and tails (3-4)
  - 10 Put into liquidation? (7)
  - 11 Rock's ending in sacred place (5)
  - 12 Unexceptional combination of extremes (3,3,3)
  - 13 Under a spell and thence transformed (6)
  - 14 Soundedly examine European language (5)
  - 15 Sailors may take a turn round them (5)
  - 17 He is not still in business (9)
  - 20 Sailor man in waterproof material (9)
  - 22 Imprisons many for a long time (5)
  - 23 Where they wash and air French articles first (7)

- Down**
- 2 Courage following trouble may provide comfort in retirement (3-5,6)
  - 3 Relatively favourable (7)
  - 4 Not up to date with the accounts? (2,7)
  - 5 Have fun on leave near Portsmouth (7)
  - 6 It's sweet, I observe, and round (7)
  - 7 Devil doctor in his study (5)
  - 8 Render an account (7)
  - 9 Esteem shown for those who are fit? (7,7)
  - 14 Notable increase in volume (9)
  - 16 Finished, being nothing less than painstaking (7)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,612

17 Agree to start home without me calling in pursuit (5-2)  
 18 In a bad temper the day none came round (7)  
 19 He gets what's left (7)  
 21 It counts as a creeper (5)  
 Solution tomorrow

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**The original paper**

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